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A MEMORIAL

OF

LEVI LINCOLN,

THE

GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS

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BY THE

GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Executive Department, Boston, May 29, 1868.

His Excellency the Governor unites with the people of Massachusetts in paying the tribute of respect and honor to the Honorable Levi Lincoln, who died at his residence in Worcester, on the 29th instant.

His distinguished services as Chief Magistrate of the Commonwealth, his patriotic interest and wide influence in all affairs affecting the welfare of the whole country, his example of scrupulous performance of every duty of the citizen, the dignity and grace of his long life closing in the veneration and esteem of all, require public and official recognition. He was one of the foremost of those who have caused this State to be respected.

His Excellency directs the Adjutant-General to tender to the family of the deceased the escort of the Independent Corps of Cadets, and to order the members of his Staff to be in attendance at his residence in Worcester, at 10 o'clock A. M., on the day of the funeral, to accompany him on that occasion. The members of the Honorable Council and the Heads of Departments are invited to be present at the same time and place. The Executive Rooms will be closed, and flags upon the State House and the Arsenal at Cambridge, will be placed at half-mast on the day of the funeral.

By order of His Excellency,

ALEXANDER H. BULLOCK, *Governor.*

Oliver Warner, *Secretary.*

PROCEEDINGS

IN THE

MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE.

Boston, Monday, June 1, 1868.

Mr. Weston, of Plymouth, introduced an order as follows:

Whereas, Intelligence has been received of the death of Hon. Levi Lincoln, of Worcester, formerly Governor of the Commonwealth; and,

Whereas, The two branches of the Legislature hold in high esteem his many excellent qualities as a citizen, and his distinguished services as Chief Magistrate of the Commonwealth, therefore,

Ordered, That a committee of five on the part of the Senate, with such as the House may join, be appointed to attend the funeral of the deceased.

Messrs. Weston, of Plymouth; Fay, of Worcester; Sutton, of Essex; Pond, of Worcester; and Gould, of the Island District, were appointed on the part of the Senate, to which the House joined Messrs. Bates, of Westfield; Williams, of Worcester; Watson, of Leicester; Blackington, of Attleboro'; Phipps, of Framingham; Allen, of Newton; McDuffie, of Cambridge; Howe of Bolton; and Appleton, of Southboro'.

PROCEEDINGS

IN THE

CITY COUNCIL OF WORCESTER.

At a special meeting of the City Council, assembled in convention May 30, 1868, His Honor Mayor Blake announced in appropriate terms the death of Hon. Levi Lincoln; whereupon the following resolutions were offered by Alderman Tolman, and unanimously adopted: —

Resolved, That the members of the City Government of the City of Worcester have learned with profound regret of the recent death of their distinguished fellow-citizen, Hon. Levi Lincoln, formerly Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the first Mayor of the City of Worcester.

Resolved, That by his ability and fidelity in his important public relations to the City, the State, and the Country, he won the respect and confidence of his contemporaries, and furnished a noble example for imitation by those who were called to succeed him.

Resolved, That in his devotion to the interests of agriculture and the various financial and business affairs of this great county, he largely contributed to its substantial growth and prosperity, and to the character and development of the resources of its people.

Resolved, That his fealty to truth, his interest in sound learning and general education, and his deep reverence for the Christian religion manifested in his public and private life, have done much to cultivate and encourage in the community which loved and appreciated him, the traits so clearly visible in him.

Resolved, That in his generous hospitality, his kindly greeting, and his uniform dignity of life and character, we recognize the true gentleman, combining in himself a just reverence for the past with a due appreciation of the present, and carrying with him to the last an unclouded intellect, and a heart which was always young.

Resolved, That the sympathy of the members of the City Government is hereby tendered to his family, where his presence was always a benediction, and that a copy of these resolutions be furnished to the family, and also entered upon the records of the City Government as a testimony of our respect and gratitude for his life, character, and services.

A copy.

Attest: SAMUEL SMITH,

City Clerk.

THE FUNERAL.

The funeral services of the late Hon. Levi Lincoln, LL.D., were held June 2d, and were attended by a large concourse of civil and literary notables from all parts of the State. The day was bright and fair, and the solemn occasion drew together a large collection of the people of the city, and the surrounding towns. The number of aged men about the streets and in attendance on the ceremonies was remarkable. From all the surrounding towns the men of the past generation gathered to pay the last honors to one who from their earlier years they have looked up to as a good and great example.

A special train bearing His Excellency Gov. Bullock and staff, the Executive Council, a committee of both branches of the Legislature, the Independent Corps of Cadets, four companies, and many other distinguished personages, arrived from Boston at 10.25 A.M.

Private funeral ceremonies were held at the house, Rev. Alonzo Hill, D.D., the pastor of the deceased, officiating. At the conclusion of these services, a procession of the relatives in carriages, escorted by the Cadets, moved down Elm and through Main street to Dr. Hill's church, near the court house. All places of business were closed, and thousands of people thronged the sidewalks to view the mournful cortége.

Prior to the arrival of the procession at the church, seats had been taken by Governor Bullock and staff, members of the council, heads of departments, legislative committees, the past and present members of the city government of Worcester, and members of the American Antiquarian Society, and the bar of Worcester County.

The galleries and side pews were filled by citizens who appeared deeply interested in the solemnities. The pulpit was very tastefully decorated with beautiful flowers, the lily of the valley predominating, and the casket was also nearly covered with floral decorations. As the remains were brought into the church, the band outside performed a solemn dirge, and every one within stood until the coffin had been placed in front of the pulpit.

The exercises in the church were opened by a brief dirge upon the organ, followed by the chant, "Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations." Rev. Dr. Hill, for forty-one years the pastor of the deceased, read appropriate selections of Scripture, and spoke as follows : —

REMARKS OF REV. DR. HILL.

My Friends : — After the heart-thrilling words to which we have just listened, words of unutterable solemnity, so uplifting, soothing, and comforting, I feel how poor and unworthy of an occasion like this is mere human speech. In the presence of the dead, and of such dead as we have borne into this temple, the closed lips and the silent meditation would better become us. We are on our way with our precious burden to the garden of our sepulchres, and pause here where the living form of our departed fellow-worshipper comes so freshly back, that we may gather help to bear the bereavement, which, though long delayed, has now come upon us, lift the cloudy screen that now lies shut down upon this community, and interpret aright the great lesson which Providence is now teaching us. The man who, for two-thirds of a century, has been leader among us, the staff and stay of our Jerusalem, the venerable counsellor in whose wisdom and experience we confided, the earnest watchman that stood upon our towers to give warning of danger, the honorable man who never wavered in his duty, and the eloquent orator, has been taken from

us; and where shall the word be found which shall speak worthily of the greatness of our loss? Who shall teach us to improve it aright? There was one once among us who could do this, and we all felt that through his luminous speech and prompt act we were led to think and do that which was worthiest and best. And who of us to-day, that remembers with what finished accomplishments he maintained his lot among us, is not ready to exclaim:

"O for the sound of the voice that is stilled,
And the touch of a vanished hand."

But, friends, there is more here than we hear and see. He who, enclosed in this coffin, has led hither this great funeral train within these portals, comes not to receive our praises, for God alone is here to receive homage, not man, frail like ourselves; but he comes to give us instruction, to draw us away from the meannesses of material things, to quicken our faltering faith, and raise us into the atmosphere of light, and reverence, and devotion. Once he used to speak to us in the thronged assembly; how eloquently! and we were moved and persuaded as he spoke, for we revered his wisdom, experience, and power of influence. But to-day he speaks to us as he never spoke before. His last speech is his truest, noblest, and most affecting. True, from under the lid of yonder coffin proceeds no sound. Silent the lips on which hung the dews of persuasion, inactive the brain which made the head throb with its motion; still, now, the hand which commanded attention by its wave; but how much more in the spectacle before us is there to subdue, move and urge us into the ways of right living. What a marvellous change has come over the venerable man whom we so recently saw in our streets, in the places of business, in the retirement of home. Though burdened with the weight of eighty-five years, so erect, so active, so prompt, so faithful in all the duties of his life, now so motionless — the

calmness of heaven on his brow, reposing in the arms of death, on his way to join his kindred in their place of rest. What a stupendous change has come over him in a brief period. Now no longer struggling with the weakness of mortality, no longer walking in the midst of these familiar scenes, under the light of the sun, moon, and stars, but ascended to the domains of God, gazing on visions which can fill only with astonishment and delight, — sharing in the companionship of kindred natures, enjoying the Saviour's welcome and the smile of God. I make no attempts to withdraw the veil and disclose the secrets of the spiritual world, but I maintain that he who was just now with us and is now an inhabitant of that world, who has gone the round of our earthly life, grown familiar with all its vicissitudes of joy and grief, and has gazed with fresh wonder and surprise upon the scenes which have burst upon him, so strange — so transporting — must, if we will sympathize and meditate, as we should do who are to pass through a like experience, teach a deeper lesson than any human speech can do. On one occasion, while he was awaiting the summons home, he gazed from his western window upon the setting sun sending up streams of parting glory, illuminating half the globe and filling it with unspeakable splendor, and said, "Heaven comes down to earth; if such be the glory below, what must it be above?" Who can contemplate the change of worlds but with the deepest interest?

I spoke of our venerable friend before us in his lifetime as influential, commanding, occupying during the long years that were allotted him, a position of eminence and doing a work which has rarely been accomplished by a single man. He seemed born for a leader, and used his rich faculties so faithfully and so successfully that the biographer of our times will pronounce him foremost among the men who guided the destiny of this county and this Commonwealth, and won for them a noble distinction. But I must not dwell upon these things here and now. I trust

on a future occasion to be able to tell what he was and what he did, to walk with you over the familiar fields which he trod, and tell you of the influences which were about him and helped mould him, and how he improved his great gifts and made them instrumental in improving and perfecting the community with which he was connected. But to-day I can only allude to one characteristic which lay at the heart of him and made him what he was, gave unity of purpose and strength of coloring to his life, and a value to his living example which made it unquestionable.

I think, beyond most men who have been for so long a period devoted to the public service, he felt his responsibility and was under the influence of profound religious principles. He never was indifferent to those high considerations which connect us with the spiritual world; he held fast to an enlightened conscience though the world should judge him perverse; though as far as possible removed from the cant of religious pretence, his reverence for the Creator and the grand realities of spiritual things was profound. On one or two occasions he spoke to me on these topics with such earnestness and depth of emotion that I could not doubt that subjects connected with the inner life were very dear to him. No man sympathized with the noblest utterances of earnest religious men more sincerely. No man separated with a truer discrimination the right from the wrong than he — and when he saw men in public life — men trusted and honored by a confiding people allured away from their high duty and a manly expression of it by their want of principle, their mean cowardice and sordid, selfish apprehensions, even in his sick-room his eye would kindle, his cheek would flush, and the brave utterance that once stirred senators and won the confidence of the great community, would flow from his lips in burning words and tones of indignant rebuke.

Nor was our venerable friend destitute of those more genial and tender qualities which invest with especial interest the religious character. There is a trait of the Puritan character of New

England which is *not* winning. It has been said of John Quincy Adams, that "in the cold, quiet eye, in the lip and voice, there were signs that assured us of a spirit that all the terrors of earth could not quail, nor all the ordinary seductions of earth move a hair." With all this inflexible adherence to principle, Gov. Lincoln was of a gentler nature. Firm as adamant when duty demanded, he could be easily moved by appeals to the more tender sensibilities — he was strong in his sympathies and enduring in his friendship, and was easily affected by the common vicissitudes and ruptured ties which diversify our lives and touch many so lightly. He was tender and loving in his affections and was never indifferent to those relations which connected him with his fellow men and with his God. You can bear witness how earnestly and how faithfully he labored for the good of this community, neglecting no opportunity by which he might help friends, city, state and common country; and I can bear witness how true he was in his allegiance to the principles of a broad, rational religion, to the traditions of New England, to his Saviour and his God. On one occasion he said to me, with a strength of emotion and expression I can never forget — (it was in one of those rare hours in his sick-room, when all the powers of nature seemed to be giving way, and he apprehended that he might be wrecked and stranded in mind as well as body), "I have tried to serve God and do good as I have been able — *He* will not forsake me now."

God did not forsake him. He tried him as he tries us all. But in the cross of a fearful, much dreaded disease, so prevalent in our day, and so awful in its effects, he was spared its most humiliating consequences. The paralysis which prostrated his active frame and crippled his energies, never reached his mental faculties. There was his intellect, clear, full and unimpaired. There was his conscience as severe and exacting as when he encountered the temptations of an active, busy life, and resisted them all. There

was the heart beating in sympathy with all generous emotions, and responsively to all noble endeavors.

He passed the winter without apparent suffering; able to transact his ordinary business, maintaining a watchful interest in those great public events which have shaken the continent and arrested the attention of the world. The snows of winter lay later on the ground, and the damp, chilly fogs of spring were seldom lifted, and for many weeks he has been no more seen abroad. A mortal weakness came on and spread more and more. Then, too languid to see his friends and to talk with them, he withdrew from the outward world. A few days ago he went to his bed, calmly waiting for the release for which he prayed. He was ready to go and why should death delay? It came at last as Heaven's last merciful interposition. He slept with his people. A great community is bereaved, and another soul, gifted of Heaven, capable of doing a large service, true to his trusts, devoted to his tasks, has ascended.

"He has gone to his God, he has gone to his home,
No more amid peril and error to roam;
His eyes are no longer dim,
His feet will no longer falter;
No grief can follow him,
No pang his cheek can alter.

"O honored, beloved, to earth unconfined
Thou hast soared on high, thou'st left us behind,
But our parting is not forever;
We will follow thee by heaven's light,
Where the grave cannot dissever
The souls whom God will unite."

Rev. Dr. Ellis, of Charlestown, pronounced the following appropriate eulogy upon the deceased:

"Having served his generation according to the will of God, he has fallen on sleep." A sentence of Christian Scripture is most fitting alike for sentiment and words to give direction to our thoughts at the burial rites of one, who, whether in a lofty or a humble sphere, has lived and died a disciple of Jesus Christ. Where our common mortality asserts its power over humanity, the lessons and the hopes which are the most full and the most devout in their substance have power over the largest number of human hearts.

And so over the remains of this honored and venerated man, judge, governor, and faithful functionary in many exalted trusts, our associate also in the fellowships for all high culture and our esteemed and beloved friend in all relations — we repeat the words — "Having served his generation aceording to the will of God, he has fallen on sleep." There is the substance of biography and the method and rule of true piety in that sentence, and wherever we can truly speak it over the dead we utter through it all that is desirable or becoming as an eulogium on an occasion like this. When in his own or in other private homes, in legislative halls or in the literary associations of which he was a member, he and his life's work are freely and fully commemorated — there may be said what we withhold now while even his mortal dust is with us.

He has served three generations. He has long outlived those who invested him with, and those who shared with him, his highest offices. Most of us have known him only as one in retirement from them, valued highly, indeed, because he served as an example, a model, a memory even, of the old dignity, rectitude and full qualification, personal and professional, associated with the magistracies of our beloved Commonwealth. Indeed, the feeling which his presence prompted in many of us was that he was still virtually the representative of all the functions and prerogatives of actual authority and influence in the State; and this, not because he still appeared in public places or in the public press, but because he

was still a power with us. He had had the discipline and opportunity from his earliest years, domestic, social and professional, to fit him for public life and to hold high trust. The stock of his lineage was that which New England has favored and cultivated as meeting its exigencies in the past, and as most characteristic of its distinctive qualities, most likely to keep for it what it has learned to value as its well proved advantages. As he attained successively the honors conferred upon him, the pride and vanity which they sometimes bring with them had been already chastened by an anticipated familiarity and an instructive warning in which he was privileged through intercourse with many around him, both weak and strong in character.

How much has entered into the training and the trial of that long and varied and public life; how much of labor, effort, struggle, discipline, energy, fidelity and resolute self-mastery as its forming and guiding influences, and how much of providential mingling and working in the portion and alternation of heart joy and sorrow allotted to him. Many times, on fine autumn days, as he has made me his companion in drives over these circling hills whence we could look either upon the farm region within the wide horizon or down upon the thick clustered dwellings and workshops of this fair city, I have tried through his memory and relations to read your local history in the landscape, and to see and hear the men and women of the past as they moved upon the stage of life.

He first knew these scenes and localities when, though they had parted with the aspects of a wilderness, they were still invested with the rude simplicity and some of the stern features of a rugged country life. The joys of his childhood were so associated with the objects and interests of a farm, that to the very end of his lengthened days, and most so when nearest to it, he found his occupation and delight in the same cherished pursuits. A guest in his delightful home who had gone to his rest at night as in a city mansion, would awake in early morning to the lowing of kine

and the cackling of fowls. Looking from one side of the house he would see the beautiful flower-garden with its conservatory, and on the other the herd going out to pasture and the yoked oxen to their labor.

And then the Governor would point to his own paternal acres, and tell what was once their value for corn and grass, and what they represented as subdivided and measured by the foot now to their owners, when the river and every thread of running water are turned to such manifold industries. He spoke of men younger than himself as old, while he had no thought of appropriating the epithet. He recalled the line of his contemporaries, and traced the living back through it. Not always, but often, he would begin or end the drive at the cemetery, which he had roamed over as a forest in his boyhood, and into which, having instigated and superintended its present use, he had followed so many friends and associates, and where his own form is to rest at the close of these solemnities.

His life covers the whole period of our national existence and administration. If what has been in his mind and has passed within his observation were written and printed before us, we should have a sufficient history of times and men, of events and crises, of the principles and issues which have been on trial, and of the parties which represented them. And this we may say — without ascribing to him philosophic profoundness or consummate genius, or passionless impartiality — that no man has lived through our history who would have written it out to all good uses of correct information and fair narration, with the balance of reserve and disclosure about prominent individuals and their motives, better than he would have done. His own official papers must have in them much of that history.

While he bore from time to time the names of parties, nearly every service which he performed was without any reference to party interests. He had the rare distinction, shared by only a very

few public men among us, of being chosen to his highest offices independently of party votes, and of being the medium through which old party issues ceased to have any vitality. He was privileged in some respects in coming upon times which favored such amities following upon bitter political strifes. But it was not by any weak concessions, nor by any doubtful compliances, that he reconciled the variances of others or secured high popular approbation for himself. He had political principles, and he never concealed or yielded them.

In private life he was pure and faithful, guided by a conscientious rectitude in the multiplied duties with which he charged himself for others, and carrying a scrupulous punctiliousness into every detail. The religious faith which had parted with some of its sterner features of early New England traditions as it presented itself to him in the vigor of his manhood, the faith which he took to his heart in conviction, reverence and full satisfaction, wrought its inward work upon his character. He loved and honored the venerable pastor and teacher under whose ministrations he received what he regarded, in times of heated controversy, as an exposition of the gospel of Christ most fitted to win and control the affections and the life.

He represented among us the graces and the courtesies which are the traditions of the last age of the most honored and most accomplished public men. There was a befitting dignity of demeanor, bearing, and address which marked him in his home as in his official intercourse. His gravity was relieved by a refined urbanity and a thoughtful kindness. He was a careful chooser of right words in his speech, and when in the private circle or in public discussion he had to speak of or to speak to those whom he did not like, or with whom he differed, his self-respect confined him both to the terms and to the sentiments of a refined decorum and a restrained temper. He corrected his public utterances in his thought before they passed into written or spoken language.

And now his long life has closed. From home, and street, and sanctuary, his presence will be missed, yet many fond memories and respectful regards will hold him in the hearts of survivors. Many sharp afflictions running through all the periods of his life had come to him in and through that home, but they had still left him its earliest and dearest companion, and other quiet and constant fellowships for the heart. His account and record with his fellow-men were in all things and in all ways such that we may yield him to meet with his own submissive trust the judgment which he looked for from the heavenly Father, the God of his youth and of his age.

At the close of the address, the hymn by Montgomery, "There is a calm for those who weep," was sung by the choir, followed by a prayer by Dr. Hill. A dirge by the choir completed the services.

A procession was then formed, and proceeded to the Rural Cemetery in the following order: —

Police.

Chief Marshal Col. George W. Richardson and Assistant Marshals William Cross, Samuel Woodward, Wm. S. Davis, C. B. Pratt, and T. W. Hammond.

Independent Corps of Cadets, with arms reversed.

Body of deceased.

Bearers: — Ex-Gov. Washburn, Ex-Gov. Clifford, Ex-Gov. Banks, Hon. Josiah Quincy, Hon. B. F. Thomas, Hon. Isaac Davis, John Hammond, Esq. Benjamin Butman, Esq.

His Excellency Gov. Bullock and staff.

Heads of Departments of State and other State authorities.

Committee of the Legislature.

Family and friends of the deceased.

Worcester City Government, present and past.
American Antiquarian Society.
Bar of Worcester County.
Worcester Light Infantry, with arms reversed.
State Guard, in citizens' dress.
Citizens.

The cortege was extremely long, and on the arrival at the cemetery, made almost a complete circuit of the grounds, and the larger part of the cortege was obliged to remain in line in the avenues during the interment.

At the close of the ceremonies the State authorities and the military escort proceeded to the residence of Gov. Bullock, where they partook of a collation before returning to Boston, and the local organizations returned to the City Hall.

During the exercises business was generally suspended, and the whole people united in paying homage to the memory of the lamented dead.

FULL OF DAYS, RICHES AND HONOR,

A Discourse preached before the Second Congregational Society in Worcester, June 7, 1868, *the Sunday after the burial of the*

HON. LEVI LINCOLN.

BY ALONZO HILL.

"And he died in a good old age, full of days, riches and honor."—1 Chronicles 29 : 28.

This language of the chronicler, employed to describe the prospered condition and happy death of David, will apply with singular truthfulness to that honored man whose well-rounded life has just been brought to a close, and whose body we bore the last week, with more than wonted solemnity, to the tomb. The son of Jesse reigned over Israel forty years — seven years in Hebron and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. Our venerated friend bore a social and moral sway longer than that; and who shall take up his crown and reign in his stead? In paying him the brief tribute which we did the other day, I promised a more extended notice, and to lay before you some of the characteristics which distinguished him, gave him his great and enduring influence, and have secured for him an exalted place in our annals. He lived and died with no spot upon his fame; and, what is especially to be noticed, he retained his noble moral position and unbounded moral influence unto the end. Other men, eminent in their day, when they have retired from active business and the conspicuous acts of official serving, have fallen into a state of partial obscurity, and cut off from intercourse with passing genera-

tions, have been remembered only in their tradition. But Gov. Lincoln, though he survived for fifteen years the allotted age of man, though engrossed in his private affairs, the cares of his farm, the nursing of his estate and his building, — no more heard in public debate and seldom seen away from his home, — was still a felt power, a living influence in city, and county, and state. In critical times, when human passions were aroused, when there were no precedents to guide, and a false step would bring peril to the Commonwealth, he was the Nestor to whose wisdom and experience there was constant appeal; and he ruled more absolutely by his private counsel and expressed opinions than when he sat in the chair of state and commanded the resources of a loyal people.

A man like this, whose opportunities and position have been so exalted, who retained to the last such influence, and won for himself such confidence, respect and reverence in the heart of this community, should not be suffered to pass away without being closely studied, in order that we may learn the great lesson which he teaches. We would contemplate anew his outer life, so fortunate and favoring in all its circumstances, to the end that we may more fully comprehend the inward life, which was the strength of him, his riches and honor. For how propitious soever may be these circumstances, unless there be the man beneath, whom they may reach and help mould, they are worthless; they only serve to render more conspicuous the inward poverty.

Levi Lincoln inherited a name that has long been illustrious in our annals. The eminent Major-Gen. Lincoln, of our revolutionary times, was of his lineage. His father, Levi Lincoln, Sr., was a man of distinction, — eminent for his ability and accomplishments, Lieutenant-Governor of the Commonwealth and Attorney-General of the United States, — a man whose influence was marked on his generation and could not fail to be very great on the character of his oldest son, who, born in this town, October 25th, 1782, always made this his home and knew no other. He lived

on land which he obtained from members of his family, and was buried on a spot bequeathed to the city for burial purposes by one of his kindred.

He was a man of varied and generous endowments. We do not claim for him pre-eminent ability. He possessed none of that creative genius which startles the world by its inspirations, lifts it up by its rare fancies, and enriches it by its inventions and discoveries. His was not the poetic element which revels in strangely brilliant fancies, and charms by its new and wonderful combination of thought. He was no lover of other men's poetry, and rarely, if ever, read a work of fiction. Indeed, he was not a large reader of books, and with books of high art or of humble literature, his sympathies were few. His talents and tastes were of another kind. His gifts were eminently practical. He was no classical scholar nor profound metaphysician, as his father was; but he possessed pre-eminently that rarest of all God's gifts to man, common sense, — that power of discrimination which, by a sort of instinct, sees things as they are, grasps them with a keen insight, and escapes the vagaries of the imagination and the influence of the passions, — the power out of which proceed good judgment and practical skill, the confidence of men and public and private authority. Then there was an inborn energy of character, a commanding will, a persistency, self-reliance, and ability to work, and a noble ambition out of which strong and valorous men have grown. There was a nice observance of the forms of society, a refined courtesy of manners, a grace of utterance, a rare fluency of speech, a singular power of combining his thoughts and marshalling his words, which won the ear and commanded the attention of all who heard. In a word, there was in him that power and disposition to excel, that ambition to act widely and put forth large social influences, that integrity of purpose, that reverence for truth and right, and that noble desire to serve his day and generation which gained for him a willing adherence, and made him the

leading man among us. He who had studied him ever so superficially, could not fail to recognize these among his prominent traits.

These and others among the marked features of his character were formed and developed by the subtle persuasions of that home where he was born, and in which he was reared, and which could not but leave lasting impressions upon all who came within its reach. They were distinct, and they were life-long. Moulded after the pattern of the better classes of New England homes, it sent forth marked New England influences. I essay to bring it back in imagination in the vivid colors in which it appeared to the boy whose lot was cast, and who received there his earliest stamp upon the character. I look from my chamber window upon a morning like this, and my eyes, with the utmost stretch of vision, cannot take in the acres which are around and make a part of that home. There are the varied labors of the farm and the household, each in their season — the spring sowing, and the autumn harvesting — the latest improvements in agriculture, the best breeds of horses and oxen and sheep, the varied rural sights and sounds which cannot fail to arouse the enthusiasm and form the life-long tastes of the young boy. Wonder you that he grew up with a love of agricultural pursuits, which no length of years, no habits of study, no political successes could abate — a love that has brought a fresh charm as his days have worn away and other pleasures have retired!

This home, so like an English manor in its dignity and hospitality and the variety and extent of its occupations, so like a New England farm in the homeliness of its daily employments, exerted its moulding power. The father, however, a large cultured man, engaged in a large practice at the bar, and a leading politician in the County and State; and the mother, burthened with the manifold cares of the household of which modern wives and mothers are, to a great extent, relieved, could bestow upon their son but slight attention; and yet their influence upon him was deep and

abiding. Though reared from his childhood in public and private schools, and prepared for college in the grammar school of the town; from his father he acquired those refined tastes, that ambition to excel, and that yearning after the occupations and excitements of public life for which we have known him — and from his mother, those habits of industry, that perseverance and conscientious devotion to truth and duty which were characteristic of him, and from both that reverence for forms which Prescott says are "guardians of liberty," and that courtesy of manners "which protects courtesy of heart." In stating the influences which helped form his opinions and mould his early habits, I may add that no one contributed more than my venerable predecessor and colleague, Dr. Bancroft. The minister of his youth, the confidential adviser of his maturer years, the faithful friend to the close of his life, his unconscious power over him was very great; and, in consequence, Gov. Lincoln's reverence for him was entire. For many years he used to be one of a select company of his parishioners that sought him in his home on Sunday evenings, and labored with him for the interests of good learning in the town. He listened with ever fresh interest to his preaching, felt the value of his expositions of Scripture, and gratefully acknowledged the worth of his word, and life, and character, in forming his own.

At the age of sixteen he entered Harvard College, and became a member of the class so celebrated in the annals of the college, of which Levi Frisbie, Samuel Hoar, Ichabod Nichols, and Leverett Saltonstall, were also members, — a class of rare ability, which, in rare numbers, in after years, rose to eminence and did good service to the Commonwealth and the country. He was not distinguished for his scholarshp, but he was distinguished for those gifts and attractions for which we have known and revered him. Though the youngest of his class, his influence over others was not inferior to that of the oldest. The fervid eloquence with which he then could speak, the kindness and courtliness of his manners, the

sincerity of his attachment to his associates, all drew them toward him. He loved them with the fresh love of boyhood, and for half a century, year after year, he used to meet them with rare, deepening affection, until their ranks had become so thinned that the meeting gave more of pain than of pleasure. And now of those sixty young men, gathered together in the fair morning of life, in the college halls, entering on life's battles so bravely, and hallowing their young friendship by their life-long devotion, only four survive, — James T. Austin, Jacob Newman Knapp, William Minot, and William Allen, infirm old men, too feeble to share in the last offices of respect for their companion, not the least distinguished of their numbers. It is, my friends, when we bring before us contrasts like these, we are made to realize the frailty of our mortal lives, and feel the beauty and sanctity of those affections, which connect us heart with heart, and all hearts with God.

On leaving college, Mr. Lincoln chose the profession of the law, entered as a student his father's office, and was admitted to the bar in 1805. Eminently fitted for the profession, fluent, as we have intimated, graceful, self-possessed, discriminating in his faculty, quick in the grasp with which he would seize the salient points of a case, and thorough in his preparation, he at once took the first rank as an advocate; business more than he could do, flowed in upon him; and in a few years he was the acknowledged head of his profession in the county, if not in the Commonwealth. I never knew him simply as a lawyer. I never heard him at the bar. But I have heard others, after the lapse of half a century of years, repeat portions of his arguments, and quote at length his telling words, so vivid was the impression which they made. His style was strong rather than ornate, and modelled more after that of Pitt than Curran. Of Pitt it has been said, he had not much of pathos and but little play of fancy, but "his eloquence consisted mainly in his talent for sarcasm and for sounding amplification." Mr. Lincoln was often sharp in his

replies, I am told; and, as was said of another celebrated English advocate, "he would plunge into the midst of a long, complicated sentence with reckless unconcern, but be sure to find his way out at last." In spite of the apprehensions he would awaken, he was a very effective speaker. Nor did he become all this without intense application. He has often told me of the overwhelming labor which his successes cost him; how he would watch the night out in the study of his cases, and then go in the morning into the court room, with a throbbing brain and sharp sickness, and speak for hours, while the film would gather over his eyes, and he would reel from very exhaustion; and yet he must speak on — the crowd that listened, meanwhile, unconscious of the effort which it cost, sitting in admiration of the ease and grace and power of his speech. Had he confined himself to his profession his name might have been enrolled among the most eminent of our jurists, — whose associate he was for a brief time, — and he might have contributed with the ablest of them to build up our judicial fabric.

But his talents and tastes led him to another kind of service. In 1812, at the early age of thirty, only seven years after he was admitted to the bar, he was chosen a member of the Massachusetts Senate; and from that day devoted his rare gifts to the Commonwealth and the country, in their political and administrative relations. For more than thirty-six years of his life he was engaged in public duties, passing thus in succession all the more public offices of the state, — a member and speaker of the House of Representatives, a second time a member and President of the Massachusetts Senate, a member of the Convention to revise the Constitution, Governor of the Commonwealth for nine successive years, a member of Congress, Collector of the Port of Boston, and first Mayor of the city of Worcester. With the last office, which he held in 1848, he ended his public service and went into retirement, which remained unbroken, except in a single instance,

when he was chosen with the body of Electors to cast the vote of Massachusetts for President of the United States four years ago; and he spoke of the pleasure which the appointment gave him, in the opportunity that it afforded to express so publicly and emphatically his admiration of Abraham Lincoln, and to renew the intimacies of earlier years with his distinguished colleagues.

I have referred to the various public offices held by Gov. Lincoln. But when I have named them all I have scarcely suggested a tithe of the service which he has rendered us. For when his official duties were most onerous, he never shrunk from the hard labor and careful oversight required by our literary, charitable, and religious institutions. He was most scrupulous in attending their appointed meetings, and always ready to apply his clear mind to the little details out of which final success comes. For many years he was one of the Board of Overseers of Harvard College, one of the Trustees, and President of the Board of Leicester Academy, President of the Worcester County Agricultural, and Vice-President of the American Antiquarian Society. Indeed we could scarcely undertake and pursue any great enterprise, touching the material and spiritual welfare of this people, without him; although burthened with the cares of State, he would give himself with unrelaxing fidelity to the examination of a district school, of the accounts of a corporation, or the ordinary votes of a church. Like the builders in the elder days of art, "he wrought with greatest care each minute and unseen part." And when he had found his coveted retirement, at the age of seventy, he did not find idleness, nor obtain unbroken rest; but was as vigilant over the public interests, as active in promoting public improvements, in enriching and embellishing the city, in adding to the happiness of the living and in caring for the final repose of the dead, as the ablest and most devoted among us. It was he who, through his official influence, placed our State Hospital upon yonder eminence, and procured the charters for the earliest Savings Bank, took a prominent part in

the re-organization of our public schools, and gave the largest impulse to the planting of shade trees, which adorn our avenues and make our city so inviting. And he it was who led in the formation of our two beautiful cemeteries, interpreted for us their sacred meaning at their dedication, and has watched over them with an interest and labored for them with a devotion that has known no weariness. Only during the present year, when his increasing infirmities forbade his personal supervision, did he relinquish his official relation to them. Indeed, who of us will not respond with the heart to the language of eulogy, addressed by Judge Thomas to the members of the Antiquarian Society, on the day of his burial. "As I came home," he says, "to this beautiful city and saw it in the freshness and beauty and glory of the spring-time — these rounded hills — this lovely valley, which nature and art had combined to make attractive, one thing was wanting, as the material wants the inspiration of the spiritual." The soul of all this was not here.

But, my friends, it is little to say of one, that he has grown up in strength and gone the round of public offices, — it is little to say, that the circumstances into the midst of which he was thrown were most felicitous, that he enjoyed rare opportunities, if we may not add that he improved his opportunities, and was faithful to his trusts. Firmness, energy, integrity, and fidelity in his public and private relations were the most conspicuous traits of his character. He had ambition — "that infirmity of noble minds;" but it was, as he once expressed it in a favorite quotation to a friend many years ago, it was the desire to have "the respect of the good and wise." He loved popular esteem; and if disappointment sometimes gave him chagrin and awoke a momentary bitterness, it never betrayed him into falseness or moral weakness. He would stand stoutly for the right. He would do his duty though friends should forsake and enemies revile, and the whole current of popular favor run against him. Here lay the real strength of the

man; and this was the reason why the popular vote of the two great parties that divided the Commonwealth year after year went for him. This was the reason why, instead of being dropped, as others have been, he was left to ask, like the old Roman commander who saved his country, for leave to retire to his farm. The people had seen him tempted, flattered, abused; but they had never seen him weakly yield to the temptation, the flattery, and the abuse. They had seen him resist them all, — resist the power of rich corporations, and compel them by his veto to abstain from the wrong when vetos were not common, and vindicate on one occasion, at least, the acts of his political opponents, because they were just, though his party friends opposed and scouted his scrupulous adherence to principle, as perverse. But the conspicuous act of his public life, one which we would have last forgotten, was his nomination of the chief justice of the Commonwealth. In what severe contrast does it stand with the self-seeking, weak policy, and wavering counsels which have marked our times, and brought into contempt our public affairs. Here is a lesson which should be written in letters of gold, and which we do well to bring home to our hearts. How grand the illustration of the character of our venerable townsman! In the Hindoo Vedas it is said: "A ruler who appoints any man to an office when there is another man in his dominions better qualified for it, sins against God and against the state." When thirty-seven years ago there was a vacancy on the bench of the Supreme Court, and the appointing power was vested in the hands of our revered friend, the then governor of the Commonwealth, I well remember the anxiety, the expectation, the personal feeling which agitated the public mind in respect to the issue of the appointment. The amiable and accomplished Chief-Justice Parker had just gone to his rest. His graceful form, and gentle bearing, and chaste eloquence were familiar among men. The light of his rare intellect was quenched, the garland was yet fresh on his grave: and who should be selected to

fill the vacant chair, so honored and so hallowed, was the great question of the hour. There was the old rule of succession. It had never been broken but in a single instance. According to the rule, the office clearly belonged to the senior associate judge; powerful interest was summoned in his behalf, — the solicitations of old friends, the pleadings of ancient intimacy, the wounds of disappointed expectation which never could be healed, — all the interests to which less of conscience and less of firmness must have yielded. But there was the text, old as the Bible, written on the faithful Christian heart — "A ruler who appoints any man to an office when there is a better man in his dominion, sins against God and against the state." Lemuel Shaw, a simple lawyer in Boston, was believed to be the better man, and was appointed to the place; and thirty years of unwavering fidelity and unmeasured success, and the authority of the judicial reports of Massachusetts all over enlightened Christendom, have justified the appointment. My friends, on what little things do the events, the successes or failures of our lives depend! The opportunity comes — there is the pressure of conflicting and opposing influences. The choice must be made; and then will follow the life-long satisfaction or the life-long regret. And how comforting it must have been to the declining years of an honored life to know, that the selection made under a sense of individual responsibility, or the strength of individual conviction, and in spite of the claims of personal regard, and of the urgency of interested friends, has with the passing time received the signal approval of all good men, and won dignity and undying honor for the State.

In the remarks which I submitted to you, my hearers, when we last met in presence of a great company of mourners, and of him for whom they mourned, I spoke of a vital religious principle as the central power which governed his life and prompted the noble acts by which it was illustrated. His faith in the acknowledged virtues of Christianity was sincere and unwavering, and the

hearty genuineness and consistency of his life the legitimate fruits of his conviction. His belief in the supernatural origin of our religion, the truth and grandeur of its revelations, the supremacy of its authority, the worth of its institutions and ordinances, and the soothing and refining influences of its spirit, was entire. You remember, you cannot have forgotten, the affectionate communication which he made to us less than two years ago, vindicating the claims of this religion on our allegiance, sympathy, and support, — a communication as remarkable for the tenderness and beauty of its language, as for the depth and sincerity of its utterance, written as it was by an old man of eighty-five years. "The worship of God," he says, "is the impulse of a man's nature. Public religious service is the very need of society. It may be doubted whether social order could well be preserved without it. All the duties of life are best performed under religious sanctions. The domestic relations demand them. The administration of government and law is sustained by them. The world over, religious observances give law to civilization, and individual man cannot dispense with them. In this Christian land, the bleeding heart of bereavement and affliction will not be content without the ministrations of religious consolation, nor will receive comfort and solace from those with whom it has no sympathy in religious feeling and sentiment. The pastoral office can only be maintained in connection with a preached gospel, and those who, in the hour of suffering and of trial, would regard the communings of the spirit with the deep thoughts of the future and the infinite as the most precious enjoyment, will find the privation of opportunities for consolation and prayer with an affectionate and beloved guide, teacher, and friend, the most deplorable of misfortunes. The ministerial office is for more purposes than the public ministrations of the pulpit. Many feel its influences who may but rarely attend the services of the sanctuary. The aged, the feeble, the sick, find in the good pastor the most welcome of visitants, and from his

counsels and instructions derive the most tender and soothing lessons of faith, and hope, and patient submission." My friends, now that the mind which conceived these pregnant words is gone, the heart that prompted them has ceased its beating, and the hand that wrote them moulders in the dust, shall we not ponder them once more as the legacy of our aged parishioner to this congregation that he loved? Born before this parish was formed, acquainted with the venerable men by whom it was founded, familiar with its history, trained amidst its benignant influences, its prosperity was dear to him, and he watched over it with an interest that never abated. This was his religious home, and while the strength was given him he came here, summer and winter, forenoon and afternoon, as to the place of his rest. Who can forget the slender, elastic form, unbent by age, still youthful in appearance, that used to enter so habitually these portals and occupy yonder pew so reverently, scorning the conveyance of carriage, or the aid of staff, always making on foot, with light, buoyant step, his Sabbath day's journey? Honor to the man who could comprehend the worth of these religious institutions, who hallowed by his observance religious services, and spared no pains, no labor, nor sacrifice, that they might be sustained.

Nor was his allegiance to our religious services merely formal, and for example's sake. Though he attached no slight importance to this, still he loved them, and sought their hallowing influence for his own good, because he felt the need of them like the rest of us. Entering upon his life's work at a time when society was agitated and rent by religious controversies, an admirer of Dr. Channing, brought up at the feet of Dr. Bancroft, whose trumpet uttered no uncertain sound, he early formed his religious opinions, and based and built upon them his religious character. They were liberal, well-defined, and deep; and, if sometimes impatient of the skepticism and vagaries of the present day, they were held without wavering, and maintained with a noble consistency and a pure

faith and charity that are of the heart. He revered the practices of New England, and held to the simple doctrines in which he had been reared, and was most scrupulous in giving public testimony to the worth of his belief, when others under like circumstances have been false and faithless. Though he was fond of popular esteem, and would do much to secure it, he never would be untrue to his settled convictions for the sake of popular impression. When he was governor, he worshipped at Brattle street, in Boston, because his predecessors in office had always worshipped there, and because the broad faith maintained there and the liberal practices of the church were most consonant with his own. And when he was a member of congress, in Washington he did not attend the court services of the capitol, so unsatisfactory to the heart's reverence through their unhallowed associations; nor did he go to the popular church where power and fashion are wont to throng; but he would turn from these, and in company with that noble man, the embodiment of our modern puritanism, John Quincy Adams, seek the plain, uninviting, neglected meeting-house, because he found principles and practices there most in harmony with those for which he had avowed his preference at home.

But I must here pause and bring our grateful reminiscences to a close. Such was our honored and revered fellow-worshipper. "He died in a good old age, full of days, and riches, and honor." He has gone to join that goodly company of cotemporaries, neighbors and friends, who once filled these courts and gave dignity and influence to this congregation. I look down from this pulpit upon the spot which he occupied for so many years, and search for the graceful form, the marked features of that countenance, and that searching look that once gave attention and encouragement to the preacher, — and he is not there. I extend my eye down the aisle which used to echo with his footstep, and seek for his old companions and fellow-worshippers, those who sat there, before and behind, — a wonderful body of men, — and they are not there. And when I remember who and what friends they were — as true,

and kind, and devoted, as were ever accorded to any man — and now look upon the vacancy no more to be filled by these familiar shapes, I am appalled at the spectacle; and were it not for the faith which I hold, and the trust in God which we have learned here together, my heart would break. But, Brethren, when I reflect that our friends have gone in a good old age, full of riches and honor, leaving a finished work and precious memories and immortal hopes behind them, I feel that we can only utter a voice of cheerful acquiescence and sing a song of gratitude to-day, — should pause no longer than to gather up our scattered memorials, and then with shoes on our feet, and a staff in our hand, press on in our journey. For they who have helped us thus far by their living influence, their wisdom, fidelity, and devotion, will help us still. Though dead they will yet speak to us; though sleeping in the grave they will assist us the more by their noble example and the spirit of their lives which they have left behind.

> Why weep ye then for him who, having won
> The bound of man's appointed years, at last,
> Life's blessings all enjoyed, life's labors done,
> Serenely to his final rest has passed;
> While the soft memory of his virtues yet
> Lingers like twilight hues, where the bright sun is set?

But, Brethren, while we cast our garlands and immortelles on his tomb, we will not forget that there are individual bereavements here hard to bear and bitter to the soul. The hospitable home has been overshadowed, the sacred ties of the household, made fast by a hallowed union of more than sixty years, have been rent, and the staff for leaning upon has been broken, and the silver bowl at the fountain that brought refreshment, has been dashed in pieces. Yield, then, dearly beloved, in this hour of God's visitation, your heartfelt sympathy for the stricken, and offer your united prayers that the light of God's truth and peace may shine in upon the darkness, and out of the trial may come forth a deeper tranquillity and more disinterested love, and a fuller blessedness for us all.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

COURT AND BAR.

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT. — TRIBUTE TO EX-GOVERNOR LINCOLN.

The adjourned session of the Supreme Judicial Court, for the trial of the parties in jail in this county indicted for murder, commenced yesterday afternoon.

The court came in at half-past two o'clock, Chapman, Ch. J., and Colt, Foster, and Wells, JJ., present.

Preliminary to the commencement of the trials, Hon. Charles Allen, Attorney General, presented to the court the resolutions of the bar of this county on the death of Hon. Levi Lincoln:

Resolved, That the recent death of the Hon. Levi Lincoln, one of the most eminent men whose names are found on the rolls of this bar, and who by his learning and great ability conferred honor and distinction upon the profession of law, affords an occasion we cannot allow to pass, without an expression of our high appreciation of his life and character, and of our sorrow that we shall no more see his venerable form among us, nor hear again from him his accustomed words of eloquence and wisdom.

Resolved, That the record of his long and honorable career of public service and duty, is illustrated by the highest virtues that ennoble human conduct; that he was a wise and safe counsellor, an eloquent advocate, a learned judge, a chief magistrate of unsurpassed executive ability, accompanied by a courage that shrank

from no responsibility or duty; that to sustain the just and firm administration of the criminal law, and to give strength to the judiciary, he disregarded the claims and persuasions of friendship, and looked only to the common weal; that as a legislator, state and federal, he was governed by the principles of a broad and patriotic statesmanship, and never surrendered himself to the demands of mere local interests or narrow partisanship; and that so long as eminent talent, never-failing fidelity, and incorruptible integrity are deemed virtues in public life, the name and memory of Levi Lincoln will be cherished among the choice possessions of his native State, and of the whole republic.

Resolved, That while we remember with admiration those more conspicuous virtues with which he illustrated the many high stations of public trust to which he was called, we can never forget the less conspicuous virtues, graces, and unrivalled accomplishments, with which he adorned every walk of private life, nor those works of usefulness, with which he occupied every day of a serene and honorable old age.

Resolved, That the Attorney General of the Commonwealth be requested to present these resolutions to the Supreme Judicial Court, at its special session to be held in this county on Monday next, with the request that they be entered on the records of the court.

Resolved, That the clerk be requested to communicate a copy of these resolutions to Mrs. Levi Lincoln, with the respectful sympathy of the bar.

After reading the resolutions, the Attorney General said:

May it please your Honors: It is fitting that we should pause before entering upon the solemn and important duties which have brought us together to pay our tribute of respect to the illustrious dead.

Within the past year this bar has already lost one among their older and worthy members — the venerable Judge Barton. On the occasion of his last appearance before your Honors, in October, 1865, his affecting eloquence in discussing a constitutional question growing out of the war, moved many to tears, and led all to regret that he would so seldom leave his voluntary retirement and take part in the argument of causes in this Court.

And now to-day, the whole Commonwealth unites with the bar and people of this county in paying honors to the memory of Gov. Lincoln. The present generation of lawyers do not remember the time when, having attained the high honor of a seat upon the bench of this Court, he was called from the profession into political life by the spontaneous, united voice of the whole people. Yet how fondly he continued, even to the last, to linger about these halls of justice, and how cordially he greeted the bench and the bar upon each recurrence of the annual law terms of this Court, who of us can ever forget?

It is not for me to dwell upon his life and character. But when the history of the admirable bar of this county comes to be written, (as for the credit of the Commonwealth I trust it soon will be,) even from the beginning to the present time, then it will partly appear how much they are indebted for the proud position which they have always occupied, to the example, and teachings, and influence of Levi Lincoln.

Fortunate is that county which possesses such an example, and is able to furnish such imitators.

> Felix prole virum.
> Laeta deum partu : centum complexa nepotes.
> Omnes cœlicolas omnes supera alta tenentes.

Hon. Isaac Davis seconded the resolutions in some remarks of great interest and appositeness, and was followed by Hon. Henry Chapin, who spoke briefly but with much feeling and eloquence.

Hon. Peter C. Bacon then rose and said :

Truly a great and good man has passed away — one of the greater lights has been extinguished — one of the pillars has fallen. Governor Lincoln has gone, — we shall see him no more forever. We can hardly appreciate the length of his days. He constitutes the link not only between this generation and the last, but between this and the two or three preceding. A man older by seven years than our nation (for he was born in 1782, and we became a nation in fact only on the adoption of the Federal Constitution, in 1789), he lived through Shay's rebellion, through the threatened if not actual war with France, through the second war with Great Britain, the Mexican war, in which he was called to give up his brave and gallant son, and his later years were saddened by the war of the Great Rebellion.

Privileged as he had been with his acquaintance for more than forty years, — his next door neighbor for more than a score of years, — having known him as a representative in Congress, and in all his official life, the speaker said he felt it fitting that he should offer some tribute to the memory of Governor Lincoln.

His manners were elegant and courteous. There was a nobility about his person and carriage that language cannot express. I have never seen it equalled. His diction was admirable beyond measure. Most felicitous in the choice of words, the right word was always in the right place, and on the right occasion. I never saw a man who had such an appreciation of the proprieties of life. No man could appreciate it who had not seen him on a festive occasion. The speaker remembered one, at the time when C. J. Shaw took his seat on the bench, at which Governor Lincoln presided with even more than his accustomed grace and felicity. He was a man of remarkable intelligence, and of unbending integrity. No man was so scrupulous as he in doing just what was right.

He was always kind, always courteous, always received you

in such a manner that you regretted you had not oftener availed yourself of his hospitality. Mr. Bacon said it had not been his privilege to see Governor Lincoln at this bar in the trial of causes, though as a student at law in the office of Governor Davis and Mr. Allen, he became familiar with the reputation which he left behind on his entrance into public life. He stood from the first at the head of the bar, though among his competitors were the two Uphams, the three Bigelows (of one of whom, Timothy Bigelow, a wonderful man, it was said that when a member of the General Court he was able, on the second morning of the session, to call by name every one of the five or six hundred members), Francis Blake, and John Davis.

The reported decisions of this Court show where he stood. From the fifth volume to the twenty-third, in every important case his name appears on one side or the other. That he did so much was owing to his industry and system.

He was more particularly known and respected as a public man. He was a popular Governor, not in the common acceptation of the term, but he was respected because he did in every case what he believed was for the public good. He regarded an office as a sacred trust, and would never shrink from the performance of duty whatever might be the consequence, taking no thought for the criticism of friends or the threats of enemies. To that conscientiousness we owe the appointment of that eminent judge who so long illustrated this bench. It is well known that he had to disregard life-long friendships.

He was a friend and supporter of our militia system. Soon after the close of the war of 1812, the war spirit died out. Governor Lincoln protested against the abandonment of the militia, and we owe it more to him than to any other man, that at the outbreak of this war we had an organization capable of doing the country some service. He was always vigilant — "*ne quid detrimenti respublica capiat.*"

Mr. Bacon spoke at considerable length, and with great earnestness, of Gov. Lincoln's zeal and labors for the advancement of learning, for the prosperity of this city and county, and of his patriotism and faith during the recent Rebellion. His remarks were very impressive, and were listened to with great interest.

His Honor, C. J. Chapman, responded to the resolutions of the bar, as follows : —

The court have listened with deep interest to the resolutions that have been offered, and to all that has been said in support of them. They constitute a well-deserved tribute to the memory of one who has lived a long life, and devoted much of it to the service of the public in honorable and eminent positions, and closed it in circumstances of prosperity and peace; and who has left behind him, both in public and private, the record of an unblemished character. The eulogies that have been bestowed upon him recall to our minds nothing by way of contrast, that we could desire to blot out as a stain upon his memory. And this is much to say of any one who has mingled so long and so earnestly in public and political affairs.

Before I knew much of this court he had left it, and had left behind him a high reputation as an eloquent advocate, and an upright, courteous, and able judge, and had become the Governor of the Commonwealth. He had been elected to that office, not by a party, but by the people of all parties, to represent them in what is still known as "the era of good feeling" in politics. He was a fit representative of the policy of such an era. Not only was his integrity above suspicion, but he was animated by a spirit of impartial good will and a regard for the welfare of all. It cost him no effort, therefore, to administer the government of the State for the equal benefit of all the people. History will make honorable mention of his name, and class him among those governors of

States who have administered our republican institutions in their true spirit.

When his services were transferred from the councils of the State to the councils of the nation, he soon acquired a national reputation as a high-minded statesman. After he retired from political life he continued to be known throughout the Commonwealth, especially as a promoter of learning and of agricultural industry. Even in advanced age he was not forgotten, and did not sink into obscurity. He has received repeated testimonials of the confidence and respect of the public, and in his old age the sentiment of respect ripened into a sentiment of veneration.

We do well to honor the memory of such men; for the example and influence of great and good men is public property, and is among the richest treasures that the State possesses. Their influence continues to live in the very soil and atmosphere; and in after times those who dwell upon the same soil, and breathe the same air, feel this influence as an elevating power. It is especially becoming in the bar and the bench to place on record a testimony of their appreciation of such a man as Governor Lincoln. The resolutions will be placed on record, agreeably to the motion.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

At a meeting of the American Antiquarian Society, held at their rooms in Worcester, Tuesday morning, the President, Hon. Stephen Salisbury, delivered a eulogy, rehearsing the services rendered and the offices held in the society by the deceased, and the following resolutions were adopted : —

Resolved, That we consider, with sorrow and deep concern, that a pillar which has sustained our association for fifty-six years has been removed by the providence of God, in the death of our senior vice-president, who was the survivor of our fathers, named in our act of incorporation, and who was second only to our honored founder, Dr. Josiah Thomas, in his good works and good influences for the prosperity of our society.

Resolved, That we will cherish the memory of our revered associate in his many good examples, in his wise liberality and watchful exertions to promote the common objects of which we have here assumed the responsible care; in his devoted and progressive patriotism; in his punctual, earnest, and unsparing labors for the furtherance of every good object, whether it was deemed great or small; in the agreeable courtesy, the ready sympathy, and the never-forgotten dignity, which made his presence welcome in all his social intercourse; in his purity of life and his conscientious regard of Christian observances; in his fearless vindication

of the right and the true, and in the root and source of his noble character, his Christian fidelity.

Resolved, That while we mourn for ourselves, we contemplate with joy and hope the departure of our friend, who at the end of his active usefulness on earth has so passed the bounds of time; and as he verified in life the promise that he, "who hath been faithful over a few things, shall be ruler over many things," we trust in the mercy of God that he has received the welcome annexed to that promise, "Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Resolved, That we offer to Mrs. Lincoln and her children our sincere sympathy in their great loss, and we commend them to the consolation of grateful memories and Christian hopes.

Resolved, We will express our respect for our distinguished associate by attending his funeral as a society.

Resolved, That a copy of this memorial be communicated to Mrs. Lincoln by the recording secretary.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

DIRECTORS OF WORCESTER NATIONAL BANK.

At a special meeting of the board of directors, called to take action in reference to the decease of the senior director, the following preamble and resolutions, offered by the vice-president, were unanimously adopted :

Inasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God to receive into his nearer presence our venerated and distinguished associate, the Honorable Levi Lincoln, who has been connected with the direction of this bank, excepting the few years while public duty required his absence from this place of his residence, since his first election, October 3d, 1810 —

Resolved, That it is fitting that to the records of the bank, which bear so full and so constant testimony to the faithfulness with which he has discharged the duties imposed upon him by these several generations of stockholders, during the long period of fifty-eight years, should now be added the grateful tribute to his memory, which, as their representatives, we desire to express.

We recall with pride the many high positions he has filled in the service of the State, and of this city of his birth, and that this more private office has been adorned, and the name of this ancient corporation more respected by his association with its history.

In his exertions to secure a continuance of its charter, in the early years of his directorship, we see the same sagacious foresight and readiness to advance the prosperity of the people of all classes, in this county, that he has ever manifested through all the years of his service.

We bear our testimony to his willingness, in latter years, to render the aid of the bank to all enterprises which have advanced the growth and the wealth of this community; to his judicious liberality in granting its accommodations to honest and deserving business men; and to his wise counsels and energetic action in times of civil commotion, or of monetary panic and mercantile distress.

We remember, affectionately, the urbane dignity, combined with genial suavity, which, at this board, as everywhere, commanded the reverence due to age, while it permitted the freedom and sympathy of his younger associates. And we mourn that he will meet with us no more.

We rejoice that his gradual decline and his last illness have been attended with little suffering, and with scarcely abated mental vigor; and that he has passed away as he would have wished to go, with the consciousness of a long life's work well done, and awaiting the summons hence "as one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him, and lies down to pleasant dreams."

We commend his example, of patient fidelity in all the duties of life, however lofty or however humble, to our own remembrance, to the young men who are officially connected with the bank, and to all who shall come after us in its management or its service.

And we offer to Madam Lincoln, and to the family of our late associate, the assurance of our tender respect for his memory, and of our sincere sympathy with them in their bereavement.

Resolved, That the bank be closed on the day of the funeral, and that the directors and officers will attend the funeral services.

Resolved, That these resolutions be entered upon the records of the Worcester National Bank, and that the cashier be directed to transmit a copy thereof to the family of Governor Lincoln.

From the records.

A copy. Attest: CHARLES B. WHITING,
Cashier.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

BUNKER HILL MONUMENT ASSOCIATION.

The undersigned, a committee appointed at the annual meeting of the Bunker Hill Monument Association, held on the 17th instant, to propose resolutions in honor of the memory of the late Ex-Governor Lincoln, report the enclosed, as the result of their action on the subject.

THOMAS ASPINWALL,
JAMES W. SEVER,
F. W. LINCOLN, Jr.

Boston, June 22, 1868.

The Bunker Hill Monument Association, sharing in the earnest desire of the whole community to pay signal honor to the memory of the Honorable Levi Lincoln, late a member, and formerly president of the association, have

Resolved, That this association is justly proud that his distinguished and revered name stands upon our rolls; and we avail ourselves of this occasion to express our grateful remembrance of his services in this body, and also of his exact and conscientious fulfilment of all duties, domestic, social, or public, throughout a long life, constantly and wisely devoted to the diffusion of happiness among those around him, and to the promotion of the best and truest interests of his State and country.

Resolved, That in all civil stations, whether in a judicial

capacity, in the State or national legislature, or in the chief magistracy of our own Commonwealth, in which he was placed and constantly sustained by well-merited public favor, his conduct was uniformly guided by pure, generous, and elevated sentiments and principles, combined with a profound sense of moral obligation that allowed no sacrifice of the public welfare to mere personal or party considerations.

In his life and character, perhaps as nearly exempt from faults as erring humanity admits of, he has left an example to be followed, a valuable legacy for the instruction and guidance of those who survive him, and of generations to come.

Resolved, That these resolutions be placed upon the records of the association, and a copy thereof be forwarded to the family of the deceased, with the expression of our sincere sympathy in their bereavement.

A true copy.

Attest: S. F. McCLEARY,

Secretary of Bunker Hill Monument Association.

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE,

WRITTEN BY

DELANO A. GODDARD, Esq. (formerly of Worcester,)

IS TAKEN FROM THE

BOSTON DAILY ADVERTISER.

Ex-Governor Levi Lincoln died at his residence in Worcester, Friday morning, at the age of eighty-five years. He had suffered from failing health, more perceptible to himself than to others, for two years past. But his remarkable vitality, which had so long spared him the usual infirmities of old age, still enabled him to bear the approaches of disease without appearing to yield to them. He was confined to his house but a few weeks, where he continued to give those who saw him the impression of health not greatly impaired, until near the last, when he fell into a more rapid decline, and passed away about seven o'clock on Friday morning. His death removes one of the last of a generation of public men who in the first half of this century gave to the political history of Massachusetts its distinction and its character; and among whom Governor Lincoln, during the whole active period of his life, exercised a conspicuous influence in positions of eminent usefulness and honor.

He inherited from his distinguished father a singular capacity for public affairs, which he had ample opportunity to cultivate under the influence of fortunate associations into which he was

early thrown. The elder Lincoln, the third son of Enoch Lincoln, of Hingham, pushed his own fortunes with great success, selecting under the inspiration of the eloquence of John Adams the profession in which he became eminent, taking part with manly enthusiasm in the discussions and events of the Revolution, contributing by tongue and pen to the formation of the public opinion which sustained the cause in its adversity, and brought order out of the chaos which immediately followed the war. He began the practice of his profession at Worcester in 1775, when John Sprague, of Lancaster, and Joshua Upham, of Brookfield, were the only lawyers whom the violent changes of the period left at the bar of the county, — the rest having deserted the country or been driven from their homes. His superior talents and address not only opened the way at once to a lucrative practice, but singled him out for the public service. He passed successively through nearly all the grades of public duty, devoting himself at the same time to the requirements of his profession, and in the intervals of his absorbing labor contributing to the journals the most effective controversial papers on the topics of the day. On the accession of Mr. Jefferson to the presidency, he was called from the Seventh Congress, of which he was a member, to a seat in the cabinet as Attorney-General of the United States. He was subsequently Counsellor, Lieutenant-Governor, and, upon the death of Governor Sullivan, Governor of Massachusetts. He enjoyed not only the intimacy and warm personal friendship of Jefferson, but was consulted by the foremost men of the nation under the administrations of Adams who preceded, and of Madison who followed him.

The younger Lincoln was born on the 25th of October, 1782; was graduated at Harvard University in 1802; was admitted to the bar and began the practice of law in his native town three years later; was a member of the State Senate in 1812, and from 1814 to 1822 represented the town in the House of Representatives; was a member of the constitutional convention of

1820; was Speaker of the House in 1822, when a majority of the members were opposed to him in political sentiments; was Lieutenant-Governor in 1823; Associate Justice of the Supreme Court in 1824; Governor from 1825 to 1834; Representative in Congress from 1835 to 1841; Collector of the port of Boston under President Harrison; and subsequently in various places of duty and service for the State and the city to which he belonged. But this catalogue of official titles and dates gives only the husks of his real service. He was profoundly interested in the political questions involved in the war of 1812, and drew, and with Benjamin Crowinshield, presented the answer of the Senate of that year to the speech of Governor Strong, who represented those who were hostile to the war. Two years later, when a member of the other branch of the legislature, he wrote the famous protest of the minority to the act authorizing the Hartford Convention. He was thus separated from the large number of able men who participated in that movement; but his sagacity was approved by his constituents, and the controlling sentiment of the State was soon on his side. In the convention of 1820, which contained the flower of the talent of the Commonwealth, others bore a more active, but none a more creditable part. He spoke without ornament or pretension, always with clearness and to the point. He belonged at that time to the advance guard, and whatever promised improvement in a reasonable and enlightened way, excited his sympathy and commanded his aid.

The period during which he administered the State government is often referred to as one of the highest political felicity. He was chosen by the concurrence of all parties, when the singular desire prevailed that the best men should be selected for office without reference to names that had lost their meaning. It was common to address the calls for local meetings to "all who were in favor of the unanimous election of Lincoln and Morton;" and, in theory at least, reference was had to the old divisions only so far

as to see that the sensitiveness of neither party was wounded by neglect in the distribution of favors. Where the memory of the old historical associations lingered behind the march of events, and candidates were chosen with reference to them, as continued to be the case to an extent which made the judicious grieve, the selection had no bearing upon particular measures to be carried out. But whatever local diversions occurred, Governor Lincoln kept the confidence of the people year after year, and year after year commanded their nearly unanimous support. New parties sprung into existence; but the initiative of opposition to the governor was a step too bold to be taken. Questions of internal policy divided the opinions of the Commonwealth, upon which the governor held no doubtful opinions. But when election day came round, the dissenters buried their griefs and helped to swell the current of public approval. And when he retired from the office it was the universal testimony that Massachusetts had never had a better chief magistrate. He never hesitated to assume the proper responsibility of his office; was not in the habit of qualifying his own views of particular measures, as in the controversy about manufacturing corporations and the introduction of the railroad system into Massachusetts against an opposition which at this time seems scarcely credible; was scrupulously careful of the dignity of his station, but by his urbanity and condescension made himself accessible to every citizen; and managed, in the midst of conflicting opinions, to give satisfaction to all parties, and make the people see that their affairs were attended to in precisely the manner in which they wished to have them discharged.

Mr. Lincoln's retirement from public life was not made an excuse for abandoning labor, where his experience, judgment, and unimpaired energy could be of service. When the town of Worcester became a city in 1848, the first citizen was naturally selected as the first mayor, and its requirements were met with unfailing zeal and fidelity. He took a warm personal interest not only in

institutions designed for the benefit of the living, but in the resting-places for the dead. He devoted time, thought, and care, not only to learned and charitable societies to which he belonged, but with equally assiduous zeal gave his best efforts to surrounding with appropriate beauty the grounds where his neighbors and friends might sleep hereafter. He was for many years president of the Worcester Agricultural Society, a regular exhibitor at its annual fairs, and a constant friend of the agricultural interests of the Commonwealth. He was a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a member and counsellor of the American Antiquarian Society, and a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Harvard University and Williams College each conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Laws. He also served as officer or counsellor of many other associations for literary, educational, or charitable purposes. He kept to the last a liberal and watchful interest in the affairs of the community where he resided, and whose respect he enjoyed. The last office of a public nature which he consented to perform was to give one of the electoral votes of Massachusetts for Abraham Lincoln in 1864, when the exigencies of the country seemed to have renewed his youth, and to have stimulated anew the patriotism which neither time nor his long retirement from its affairs had begun to extinguish.

The good fortune which seemed to wait on him in the earlier, continued with him through the later period of his life. The hand of time rested lightly on him; and till the sharp warning came to remind him of the change he was approaching, he preserved an elasticity of mind and body suggestive of perpetual youth. He had the happiness also of receiving, wherever he went, the visible manifestations of the respect of a generation with whom the active period of his own life was little more than a tradition. The controversies in which he had borne no indifferent part were forgotten; and his fellow-citizens only remembered his eminent public services, his faithful attention to the duties of a good citizen, and the excellencies of his Christian character.

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE,

WRITTEN BY

HON. CHARLES C. HASEWELL,

IS COPIED FROM

THE BOSTON JOURNAL.

DEATH OF EX-GOVERNOR LINCOLN.

Massachusetts has lost one of the most eminent of her sons, through the death of Levi Lincoln, at the very advanced age of eighty-five years. He died at Worcester on Friday, after a brief illness. Mr. Lincoln belonged to a family which has been distinguished for a century by the talents of many of its members, and the eminence of their public services. His father, Levi Lincoln, a distinguished statesman of the first age of the Republic, was born at Hingham, in "the Old Colony," in 1749. Through his own exertions he obtained a regular education, and was graduated in Harvard College in 1772, with high honors. He chose the law for his profession, and was studying for the bar in the office of the celebrated Joseph Hawley of Northampton, when the Revolutionary war began, at Lexington, upon which he volunteered, and served for some time with the army that finally drove the English from Boston. He selected Worcester for his residence, and was admitted to practice in 1775, and immediately attained to distinction. In 1778 he conducted the defence of Mrs. Bethsheba Spooner and others, who were tried and convicted on the charge of murdering Mrs. Spooner's husband. This was the first capital trial in the *State* of Massachusetts, and there has been nothing in our criminal history like it since. It is the most sensational of all our celebrated causes, and the history of it can

even now be read with painful interest. Mr. Lincoln had a hopeless case on his hands, and he knew it; but he contended manfully and ably for his clients, showing great ingenuity and power of argument. The manuscript notes of his plea are yet in existence. An active patriot, Mr. Lincoln was now called to office. He was made Judge of Probate, and chosen a delegate to the convention which made the constitution of Massachusetts. He served in the Legislature, and was elected to the Continental Congress, but declined the latter post. He was a member of both branches of the Legislature after the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, and was elected to Congress in 1800. In 1801 he received the appointment of Attorney-General of the United States, from President Jefferson, and held the office until 1805, when he voluntarily left it. Chosen a State Councillor of Massachusetts in 1806, and Lieutenant-Governor in 1807 and 1808, he became Governor in the latter year, on the death of Governor Sullivan. In 1811 President Madison made him an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, but the state of his health did not allow of his accepting the station. The remainder of his life was passed in retirement, and was devoted to agriculture and study. He died on the 14th of May, 1820.

Mr. Lincoln married Miss Waldo, daughter of a distinguished citizen of Boston, in 1781. The eldest son of this marriage was the gentleman just deceased. He was born in Worcester on the 25th of October, 1782. At twenty-one he was graduated at Harvard College, and selected his father's profession, studying in his office until 1805, and commencing professional life that year at Worcester. He became an ardent politician, and was a recognized leader of the Jeffersonian Democratic party, which was successful on several occasions in Massachusetts in those days, the State voting for Mr. Jefferson's re-election, and later, electing Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Gerry to the Governorship. In 1812 he was a member of the Massachusetts Senate, and drew up the

answer of that body to the speech of Governor Strong. Party spirit then ran very high, and Governor Strong stood at the head of those who were opposed to the war with Great Britain. Mr. Lincoln was a firm supporter of the war, and opposed the course of the majority here with indomitable courage, but always maintained the courtesies of political warfare. He was elected a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1814, the session of which year was the most remarkable one in our legislative history. The Hartford Convention was then resolved upon by our Legislature. Mr. Lincoln vigorously opposed this project, but the Federalists were overwhelmingly strong and carried their point. He then drew up the well-known protest against that Convention, which was signed by seventy-six members. This paper was published, and sent to every part of the country; and it had the effect of gaining for its author a national reputation. He continued to serve in the House of Representatives for several years, until the close of 1822. In his last year he was chosen Speaker, though the majority of the members were opposed to him in political opinions, a tribute of respect that is very seldom paid to a public man in America. No man ever left behind him a higher reputation in the Massachusetts Legislature than the second Levi Lincoln.

A constitutional convention was called in 1820, to revise the State Constitution, and Mr. Lincoln was chosen one of the delegates from Worcester. His colleagues were Abraham Lincoln and Edward D. Bangs. He was one of the most prominent members of the Convention, and ever supported liberal doctrines or liberal measures, as a delegate; and some of the wisest changes made in the State Constitution were largely due to his influence and exertions. Some of his remarks on representation were quite as advanced as anything that is known at the present day. In the debate on the apportionment of the Senate, held on the 13th of December, 1820, he said — "Our government is one of the

people, not a government of property. Representation is founded on the interests of the people. It is because they have rights that they have assumed the power of self-government. Property is incompetent to sustain a free government. In a government of freemen, property is valuable only as the people are intelligent. Were it not for a government of the people, the people would be without property. But it is contended that this system is justified by another principle. Representation and taxation have been described as twin brothers. But this principle has not been fully understood. It does not follow that there shall be an unequal representation, that taxation may be represented. It is only necessary that all who are taxed should be represented, and not that they should be represented in proportion to their tax." These views would be considered liberal even by the radicals of this time, and they are applicable to some of our existing disputes. He spoke with much spirit on the 30th of December, when the independence of the judiciary was under discussion. After showing the little likelihood there was that four co-ordinate branches of the Government — the House of Representatives, the Senate, the Governor, and the Council — should conspire to remove a Judge without cause, he proceeded to observe: "But it was argued that future legislatures might be corrupt. This was a monstrous supposition. He would rather suppose that a Judge might be corrupt. It was more natural that a single person should be corrupt than a numerous body. The proposed amendment was said to be similar to provisions of other Governments. There was no analogy — because other Governments are not constituted like ours. It was said that the Judges have estates in their offices — he did not agree to this doctrine. The office was not made for the Judge, nor the Judge for the office; but both for the people. There was another tenure — the confidence of the people. It was that which has hitherto occurred here. Have we then less reason to confide in posterity than our ancestors had to confide in us?"

Under the act for the separation of Maine from Massachusetts, Mr. Lincoln was appointed one of the Commissioners to divide and apportion the public property. He was Lieutenant-Governor of Massachusetts in 1823; and in February, 1824, he was appointed an Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court. This office he held but a short time, for in 1825 he was nominated for the office of Governor of Massachusetts by both political parties, and chosen without opposition to speak of. That time was the close of "the era of good feeling," which was soon to be followed by new party divisions. In the re-formation of parties that took place after the election of Mr. J. Q. Adams to the presidency, Governor Lincoln became a leader of that organization which ultimately was so renowned under the Whig name. By this party he was repeatedly re-elected to the executive chair, — or, it would be more proper to say, he was re-elected by the people, as the opposition made to his re-election was often but nominal. He was Governor of Massachusetts nine years in succession, a circumstance without parallel in our history; and his retirement was voluntary. The period of his governorship was one of the most prosperous that the State has ever known, and is often looked back to as a golden time, when men were better than they are now, and when sound principles were held in higher veneration than they are by the existing generation. In all respects Governor Lincoln was a model magistrate. He was universally respected, as well by political foes as by political friends, and this consideration was the just result of his conscientious and most careful discharge of the various and difficult duties of his high station. The first veto message ever submitted to the Legislature of the State came from Governor Lincoln.

The same year that he left the office of Governor (1834), Mr. Lincoln was chosen a representative in congress, from the Worcester district. He succeeded Mr. John Davis as representative, as Mr. Davis had succeeded him as governor. He remained in the House of Representatives, by successive re-elections, until

1841. His course as a member of congress was high-minded and honorable, and won for him the good opinion of all. Though strictly faithful to his party and its principles, he had a scorn for the work of mere faction that sometimes found effective expression. An instance of this occurred during the exciting presidential contest of 1840. Mr. Ogle, of Pennsylvania, made a speech, in which he assailed President Van Buren for having, as he said, been extravagant in furnishing the White House. There was much vulgarity in the speech, and Mr. Lincoln, though a strong supporter of Gen. Harrison, replied to Mr. Ogle with so much effect that the Democrats printed and circulated his speech as a campaign document.

When the Whigs came into power, in 1841, Mr. Lincoln was appointed Collector of the port of Boston, succeeding Mr. Bancroft. He remained in that office until the latter part of 1843, when he was removed by President Tyler, who was then intriguing for the Democratic nomination, and therefore was making use of "the spoils" to buy up active politicians. This was the only occasion on which Mr. Lincoln ever left office otherwise than by his own act, and the change in this instance was honorable to him. He was immediately chosen to the State Senate, and re-elected the next year, when he was made president of that body. In 1848 he was one of the presidential electors on the Whig ticket, and presided over the Electoral College when its vote was cast for Taylor and Fillmore. He was chosen first mayor of the city of Worcester, and served his immediate fellow-citizens with the same zeal, intelligence, and fidelity that ever had marked his course in higher positions. He gave his services to several societies, corporations, and academies, and acted as trustee, treasurer, or president, in them all, repeatedly. He took a great interest in agriculture, and was for many years president of the Worcester Agricultural Society. He was also a Vice-President of the American Antiquarian Society, and Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and

Sciences. He served as one of the members of the Board of Overseers of Harvard College, and by that learned body he was made a doctor of laws. A similar honor was conferred on him by Williams College. His last public post was that of presidential elector in 1864, on the Republican or Union ticket. He was present at the opening of the Massachusetts Legislature in 1866, to witness the inauguration of his neighbor and fellow-townsman, Governor Bullock, though at that time considerably advanced toward his eighty-fourth year. It will be observed that he was born the same year with Webster, Calhoun, Cass, Van Buren, and Benton.

A younger brother of Mr. Lincoln, — Enoch Lincoln, born in 1788, — was a man of great abilities and possessed remarkable acquirements. He was a student of Harvard College, studied law with his elder brother, and was admitted to the bar in 1811. Settling at Fryeburg, in the then district of Maine, in 1812, he gave much of his attention to the Indian history of that part of the country; and he wrote poems of much merit concerning the modes of life then prevalent in the country of the Saco. He removed to the town of Paris in the year 1819, and was elected to the United States House of Representatives, in which he remained until 1826, when he became Governor of Maine. The two brothers were governors at the same time, and the two States had at one time formed the single State of Massachusetts. He was three times Governor of Maine, and declined a fourth time, purposing to devote himself to literature, science, and agriculture, in all of which he was well-fitted to shine; but his death, in 1829, when in his forty-first year, put an end to what would have been a brilliant life. He contemplated an extensive work on Maine, the materials for which he had collected.

Captain George Lincoln, son of the late Governor Lincoln, was a young man of much promise. He left college at the age of twenty, and turned his attention to maritime pursuits, for which he

showed much fitness. He then entered the regular army of the United States, and served in the Florida war. Sent to Texas in 1845, he was present in the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma; and was appointed assistant adjutant general. He was attached to the staff of General Wool at the battle of Buena Vista, and fell at the crisis of that hard-fought action, in which victory so long remained in doubt. The highest tributes were paid to him in general orders, and were ratified by the testimony of his brother officers. He fell in his thirty-second year. Had he lived, he would have won distinction in the secession war, as he had the true spirit of the soldier, and was steadily rising in the army. At the time of his death the rank of captain had been conferred upon him, though he was not aware of the fact. His remains were removed from Mexico when our army left that country, and now repose in the beautiful cemetery at Worcester. Major Frye, of the Kentucky Volunteers, said of him: "By his noble bearing and kindness of heart, he won our affections completely. We looked upon him as upon a brother, and when we were leaving the country we could not consent to leave his remains behind us."

The death of Mr. Lincoln, though not without warning, has taken him from the community by which he was beloved, before age had made life burdensome, or impaired mental faculties had weakened his interest in the affairs of his native State. During the Rebellion, his pen on more than one occasion, and his voice when opportunity presented itself, told of the patriotic emotions which he experienced, and the interest he felt in the cause of humanity. His life record forms a chapter in our local history illustrating the beauty of a career in which devotion to great public interests was happily blended with the purest Christian motives, and the most spotless personal integrity. Though he had attained to a venerable age, he had not outlived the remembrance of his good deeds performed in the vigor of his manhood. Now that he has passed away, the people of the whole Commonwealth will revere his memory.

EXTRACT FROM AN ARTICLE

IN THE

WORCESTER PALLADIUM,

BY HON. J. S. C. KNOWLTON.

Massachusetts never had a more efficient, pains-taking, prompt governor, than was Governor Lincoln. He made himself familiar with the affairs of the Commonwealth, and devoted himself assiduously to the promotion of its interests, and the protection of its welfare and honor; never allowing his private affairs a precedence over the claims which he considered the State had upon his time and attention.

Among the questions of State policy that engaged his attention as Governor, was that of internal communication of the seaboard with what are now the great and powerful States of the West, but which then had scarcely given promise of what they have since become. He favored a survey for a canal from the Hudson River to Boston Harbor, — the precursor to the survey for the railroad that was afterwards constructed.

Gov. Lincoln was elected a representative in Congress in February, 1834, upon the election of John Davis as governor; and was chosen again in November of the same year; again in 1836; and still again in 1838; and in 1840. In that position he was a faithful and honorable member; on some occasions showing that he held truth and honor as of higher moment than fealty to party; though Gov. Lincoln never had any concealment of his political sentiments, nor afforded, on any occasion, any apology even for an allegation of political duplicity. The political views which he accepted in early life, carried him, without indirection, into the Republican Party; and induced him to speak and act, so far as his

age would permit, in support of the National Union, and in rebuke and condemnation of every effort, by whomsoever made, to break up and destroy the government.

Upon the incorporation of Worcester as a city, in 1848, Gov. Lincoln was nominated by the citizens, without distinction of party, for its first Mayor, — a befitting compliment to one whose whole life had been identified with the growth and prosperity of the municipality. He accepted the position only for a single year.

It would scarcely be hyperbole to say of Gov. Lincoln, that he was one of the institutions of Worcester, so intimately was he connected with all its material, intellectual, and moral interests — its means for industrial, social, and general development and progress.

Gov. Lincoln retained his faculties, with much of their vigor, to the close of his life, even after a partial paralysis had deprived him of the ability to enjoy the activity which was ever one of his distinguishing characteristics.

The life of a citizen, so widely known, and so intimately blended with the present, the gone, and the coming, gives pertinency to Coleridge's inquiry : —

" Hath he not always treasures, always friends,
The good great man? Three treasures — love and light,
And calm thoughts, equable as infant's breath ;
And three fast friends, more sure than day or night —
Himself, his Maker, and the angel Death."

The death of Gov. Lincoln produced a sensation of sadness, — not merely among the older residents, but also among the masses of the dwellers of the city, many of whom might never have known aught of him but his reputation as a useful and honorable citizen ; spared to a great age as an exemplar of manly virtues ; and closing his long and useful life only at that day, when, as the sacred writer expresses it, "*the strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed.*"

THE FOLLOWING EXTRACT

FROM A NOTICE IN THE

WORCESTER DAILY SPY,

IS UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY

HON. HENRY CHAPIN.

Governor Lincoln was a man of rare executive ability and unbending integrity. He possessed that kindness of heart and urbanity of manner which characterize the true man. He was a splendid specimen of a gentleman of the old school. No man welcomed the coming or sped the parting guest more gracefully than he. His home was always fragrant with the flavor of hospitality, while true dignity and grace always seemed a part of his nature. As he walked the streets up to the time of his last sickness, with form erect and with eye undimmed, no stranger ever met him without feeling that he was a remarkable man.

Until the last year of his life he walked a mile to church in preference to riding in his carriage, and always did his part apparently with the vigor of a man of fifty. Visitors at our agricultural fair last fall remember with pleasure the cordial greeting of this erect octogenarian, as he walked about the grounds and expressed his admiration at the unusually fine exhibition of stock. He possessed an eloquence of speech and a purity of diction rarely equalled and seldom surpassed, and whatever he undertook to perform we knew would be done gracefully and well. The truthfulness and honesty of his nature were peculiarly manifested during the last years of his life, when casting from him any fecling of jealousy towards men

younger and less talented than himself, whose views had at times differed materially from his own, he stood up firm and fearless for the right, regardless alike of any anxiety as to whether he led or followed. No truer republican lived among us, and his devotion to the principles of the party upon which the salvation of the country seemed to depend, was alike honorable to his head and his heart.

A new generation has come upon the stage since his name was surrounded with a sort of halo of professional success; but this community, which loved and honored him, not only for his remarkable ability, but for the noble consistency of his daily life, will cherish his memory with respect and affection, and will long refer to him as the gentleman of ripe age and culture whose heart was always young, and who to the last day of his long and useful life, loved the home of his childhood and his friends and neighbors with a fidelity and earnestness of affection which sickness could not change, and which death cannot have terminated.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

WORCESTER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

AT ITS

SEMI-CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY,

SEPTEMBER 17, 1868.

The President, Solomon H. Howe, Esq., alluding to Ex-Governor Lincoln, as the deceased founder of the Society, introduced His Excellency, Governor Bullock, who spoke as follows:

EULOGY BY GOVERNOR BULLOCK.

Mr. President: In offering for the consideration of the society the resolutions which I hold in my hand, I almost deem it unnecessary to say that he who is the subject of them bore an active part fifty years ago in the organization of this institution. He was one of its first board of officers under his father, the senior Governor Lincoln, as president. He delivered the inauguration address before the society at its first public exhibition forty-nine years ago. Five years later he was chosen its president, and continued to hold the office, without interruption, for the period of nearly thirty years, when of his own choice he retired. I propose his memory, to-day, accompanied with no other thoughts or reflections than such as flow from the present occasion, and from his relations to this association. His career in public life and political station, and all his connections with other objects and organizations, I pass over, and ask you to remember him as long time the

president and at all times the friend of the Worcester Agricultural Society. I offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, By the members of the Worcester Agricultural Society, that we share with the general public in deploring the decease of Levi Lincoln; whose life, character and reputation were cherished by all the people of this Commonwealth, and were especially near and dear to his fellow citizens and neighbors in the city and county of his nativity and residence.

Resolved, Especially, that we desire to make enduring record of our appreciation of the service he rendered to this society through the uninterrupted period of half a century; one of its originators and organizers, its first recording secretary, its president for twenty-eight years, at all times and in all seasons its eloquent advocate, constant contributor, and devoted friend.

Resolved, That we hold out to our members and to all whom our influence may reach, the worthy and brilliant example of our lamented friend, as an illustration of the honor and dignity which may be attained, beyond all distinction of office or station, by a just and pure life passed amid rural pursuits, and in the cultivation of the higher sentiments of human nature.

Mr. President, the present season is an eminently proper occasion for recalling to the attention and gratitude of those now living the services of that class of gentlemen, of whom our late townsman remained latest among us, who in the early years of the present century conferred a lasting benefit upon the whole community, by organizing the first agricultural societies. I have been invited to attend, during this month, the half century commemoration of three of the original and largest of these societies. I refer to Worcester, Essex and Hampshire. One of these finds its own existence interwoven with the life of Timothy Pickering, and the associates of his time in the east; another cannot write its history without contributing to the biography of Gov. Strong, the Millses,

the Bateses, and the Allens so well known as the river-gods of the Western valley; and the third, our own society, in setting up a stone to mark the stage of fifty years, would be guilty of unnatural neglect if it were not to inscribe most prominent the name of Governor Lincoln as its founder and steadfast patron and friend.

There are those now present who can bear witness to the comprehensive views he took of the whole field of agriculture, and the freedom with which he discussed them and impressed them upon others. The characteristics of the soil, and the modern arts and methods of developing and improving them; the rotation of crops, and their several adaptations to particular localities; the kinds of animals fitted to the varying towns of this entire section of the State, and the history of their introduction, crossing and improvement; these and kindred topics were quite at his command, and he treated them so frequently and so well as to become the best educator we have ever had in the county for all that appertains to the business of an agricultural society.

He once gave me in private conversation an historical account of the "short horn," occupying half an hour, and fit to have been taken down by a reporter for preservation. If there be any man in the State who is better informed than he was upon this class of subjects, I know not where he may be found. His power of practical generalization was displayed in this field of inquiry, and he so classified and arranged the topics as to bring the whole together into a noble system of organic husbandry. We always felt, when listening to his talk upon these things here and elsewhere, that he dignified what we call agriculture, and raised our thoughts of it, as of something greater and higher than a mere mechanical necessity for subsisting the human family.

It must be pleasant to a great many persons now living, to remember this Worcester Society, as it comes back to them from the days of his presiding; and it is no disparagement of any of his

successors if some of us cannot make the association seem quite the same thing that it was to us under his control and management. My early recollections of a cattle show are of coming hither as a boy, nearly forty miles, and witnessing the dignity and affability with which he presided, and the interest with which he inspired all who were around him. Many of you know how patient, in that relation, he was of every detail, so that it appeared that he could not formerly have been more painstaking in administering the affairs of the Commonwealth than afterwards in directing these. His hospitality after the labors of the show-day were over, when committee-men assembled under his roof to condense, in the fellowship of the evening, the somewhat diversified, and perhaps somewhat incoherent lessons of the field and pens, will long be remembered by every one who ever shared it. The best farmers from distant towns went away with an enlarged sense of the elevation and importance of their vocation, and felt encouraged to strive more stoutly in the next year's competition. I make much allowance for the large increase in the number of these societies, and the consequent reduction of the power of the old ones, — and more still for the modern horse furor, which carries all before it, and to which those who would not, nevertheless do yield, for the sake of the receipts; and yet even more for the overshadowing predominance of the modern mechanic arts over the smaller department of agriculture; and after all these allowances, I have an opinion that our friend could accomplish more and better results than any man I ever knew in keeping up the influence of an agricultural society upon the basis of its original design.

You and I know with what reluctance he gave up his opposition to the introduction of the trial of the speed of horses as a prominent item in the programme of our institution, — for he knew, as he once said to me, that the incident would in due time become the principal. Let us respect him for that, even while we give way to the fulfilment of his prediction, which subordinates

to-day, that is assigned for the cattle, below to-morrow, which belongs to the horses. I will not raise the question which of the two we ought to respect the more highly in the peerage of the race,— whether it should be Devon or Derby. That you may answer each one for himself. For myself, amid all the excitement of cable dispatches from the English course, announcing silver plate and fabulous wagers, won or lost, according to the infinitesimal part of a second of time, achieved by the fleetest hoof, with the name of the progenitor sire annexed, I like to repeat what Mr. Webster, standing in the centre of his herd at Marshfield, twenty years ago, told me the Duke of Devon had said to him: "Politically my domain may cease to endure, perhaps sooner than I could wish; but I console myself with the reflection that my name shall be respected so long as the noble race of cattle which bears it shall continue to exist in England."

The farmer of Marshfield and the farmer of Worcester, contemporaries and friends in almost all other things, were assimilated in the possession and cultivation of this instinct and taste. On the day already referred to, when, with a party of friends, Mr. Webster had perambulated his twelve hundred acres, and had shown to us his fields, his cattle, and his barns, we noticed the stable well stocked with horses, and asked that we might not fail to see them. "Certainly," he said, "here are some horses, quite handsome and excellent, I believe, which have been presented to me by generous friends. Look at them and judge. I profess to know how to build a barn, and to understand the best cow in an hundred; but these horses are a little out of my line." And you remember that, as his last days on earth approached, he requested that he might be propped up in his chair by the window, and that his cattle should be driven up before him for his last inspection. It was a review, true to nature, just prior to his final departure. He liked those faces, and turned his own towards them with a confidence which the last hours of a man make solemn and worthy of respect.

In the exercises at yonder church in funeral honor to Governor Lincoln, my greatly esteemed friend, the Reverend Dr. Ellis, — who had been, long time, an intimate in the family, and who better than most persons was fitted to speak of the departed, — with his quick sagacity as to the features of urban and rural life, made special mention of this point in the life of the good Governor. He said:

"The joys of his childhood were so associated with the objects and interests of a farm that, to the very end of his lengthened days, and most so when nearest to it, he found his occupation and delights in the same cherished pursuits. A guest in his delightful home, who had gone to his rest at night as in a city mansion, would awake in early morning to the lowing of kine and the cackling of fowls. Looking from one side of the house, he would see the beautiful flower-garden with its conservatory, and on the other the herd going out to pasture, and the yoked oxen to their labor."

To me, living directly opposite his residence and observing for many years his daily ways, this picture of the governor, by Dr. Ellis, was peculiarly truthful and charming. Looking out from my chamber window at an early hour in the summer mornings, I used to call attention to the Governor emerging from his dwelling, a little in advance of the rest of us, to review his line of Ayrshires as they passed by him to the green fields beyond. His fondness and knowledge of good stock found expression in as choice words as could be bestowed upon a fine landscape. In this particular he was one of the pioneers of the present era of taste and sentiment for the higher grades of the animals which is ennobling the people of this Commonwealth. From the day of Edmund Burke, who, amid the thickening of the terrible public drama of that time, found solace and invigoration among his herd at Beaconsfield, there has been nothing better in the education and exaltation of the mass of the community than is exhibited now in the care and fondness bestowed

by the people of Massachusetts upon the improved kinds of animals. And I have not met with any one who engaged in this method of promoting the general welfare and making the cultivation of live stock almost an ideal employment, with more genuine sentiment than our departed friend and president.

He was thoroughly in sympathy with all the growths and symbols of beauty in nature. Of course he was a lover of trees. I make this one of the tests of a true and sympathetic man. In the matter of our sensibilities the poet has given undue precedence to sound over sight. I do not know but every stranger to the "concord of sweet sounds" should be given over to "treason, stratagems and spoils;" certainly, at least, this rhapsody of Shakespeare on music, as some one has said, has furnished every vacant fiddler with something to say in defence of his profession. But what do you say of a man or woman that does not warm under the concord of sweet sights — of trees and flowers. In the lifetime of the late Governor we were wont to indulge in facetiousness over his position of championship and antagonism in the behalf of all standing trees. So far as I am aware, he was never known to be willing that one should be taken down unless under authority almost equivalent to the exercise of the right of eminent domain. He knew the ages and could verify the concentric rings of most of the trees in our neighborhood. A generation ago he cut the finest private avenue of the city, and planted his home on it, then quite remote from the street, and called Oregon, saving old trees and planting new ones, now old. As a consequence, in later years new comers found the ash, the maple, and the elm, in the centre of the brick sidewalks; the municipal authorities did not like to cross his feeling; and artifice had to be resorted to, in some instances, to clear the incumbrance from the walks. He believed in front yards, and ample lawns, and green leaves.

Flowers, too, he appreciated beyond most men, and guarded them to their tendcrest roots. There was most excellent sentiment

in him for these, though no overflow of sentimentality. He could not translate the technical language of flowers like Van Buren, but he enjoyed and cultivated them as ministers and agents in the divine poetry of human life. I dwell upon this because, in my judgment, it ought to pass for much in the estimation of a real country gentleman. He manifested this taste at festive boards, and observing beautiful groups of vine and blossoms depending from the stand, he would say that it must have cost the gardener a pang to cut such clusters. He reminded me of the late Mr. Choate, who was known to carry back a bough to the trunk from which he had torn it, in the belief, as he said, that possibly, there might be some yearning between the parent stock and the disrupted shoot. Such men, by their natural sympathies, expressed in courtly words, make the world attractive to others.

But trees, above all things, Governor Lincoln believed in and admired. He had inherited from his birth in this interior county an appreciation of out-door life and the manly and healthful pursuits of the country. His father's house was amid original groves. He, himself, had been born upon the verge of the modern clearing, and on the margin of the later civilization. By nature and right he retained unto the end his love of the rural scenes in which he had been cradled. The relations of his family carried him backward to the days of Worcester county colonization, and he kept this memory fresh and practical. These clay hills of Worcester, unchanged since the creation, covered largely until within my recollection with the primeval woods; the sublime grouping of the Monadnock and the Wachusett, and the smaller ranges and spurs intervening between them and us; the spring verdure on the plains deepened and enriched all the way for forty miles around with gleam of water and graver shade of embowering forests; the richest variegation of the autumn and winter, comprising the hues of October and the leafless branches of December; the wooded and icy galleries of January and February, extending through all the country from this

town to the White Hills; the perennial banners of pine, and hemlock, and fir, that hung out over all this northerly circuit, so much observed and admired by our fathers; — these had for him the sanction of the lords of the soil of a former generation, and received his life-long love and respect.

> "In such green palaces the first kings reigned,
> Slept in their shades, and angels entertain'd;
> With such old counsellors they did advise,
> And, by frequenting sacred groves, grew wise."

It seemed to me that Governor Lincoln kept off old age by renewing his youth in sympathy with each recurring spring and summer. In my last visit to his chamber, only a short time before his death, he said that, until within a year, he had never thought or felt that he was an old man. And some of you must have noticed, as I frequently have within the past ten years, that, on public occasions, any allusion to him as aged or venerable, evidently was not relishable to him. Old age in him was not churlish, or querulous, or so unresponsive as with many men at his time of life. He appeared proud to show that he believed in that age whose pillars are raised on the foundations of youth. To him this felicity came in great part from being constantly in communion and intercourse with the outward and visible world. He meant to know what was going on, to the end. No person knew better than he, every year until the last, what was exhibited here; and from what town and farm; and how and by whom raised; and by what process brought into a condition fit for this exhibition of the wonders of the earth. He was, all his life, awake and sensitive to the growth and expansion of his country; and, true to the sentiments which had descended to him from his ancestors, he stood by his country's colors bravely through three wars, and never more gallantly than in the last. By unintermitted familiarity with the life of society, and with the ceasless activities of the animal and

vegetable kingdom, he kept his own being vital and fresh, as if supplied from the sources of perpetual youth. Accordingly, instead of trying to think that he was neglected, or that his day had gone by, — as old folks are too apt to say, — he knew better, and gratefully realized in every day's experience that he was in the full enjoyment of

> ——— "that which should accompany old age,
> As honor, love, obedience, troops of friends."

The last years of his life were marked by something of the ancient patriarchal serenity, and would stand the test of the best sentiment and style of Cicero's philosophy for old age.

And thus, Gentlemen of the Worcester Agricultural Society, as your president drew nearer and nearer the goal, he illustrated that law of our existence, which, I have sometimes thought, according to all just conceptions of our human lot, is as unerring as the law of gravitation, — the rule of the sympathy and affinity of man to the earth whence he sprang and to which he must return. Above all others, those who are engaged in the cultivation of the soil, and are in daily observation and study of the miracles of the natural world, alike perceive and exemplify this law. So did he in a large and appreciable sense. The last labors and the last thoughts of such are in tranquil association with the myriad lessons coming from this common mother earth to which the mortal part of us must go back to find its rest. Even under the heathen philosophies the advanced stage of human life found its keener pleasures in pursuits relating to the culture of the soil. Under the Christian dispensation this tie is more bright and vital, and vibrates with grander thoughts and joys. The higher aspects of the contemplation and cultivation of the land, break to the gaze of the Christian agriculturist, "as he moves forward to the great crisis of his being, catching an intelligent glimpse of the grand *arcana* of nature exhibited in the creative energy of the terrestrial elements; the

suggestive mystery of the quickening seed and the sprouting plant; the resurrection of universal Nature from her wintry grave."

And so he died. A few months after his last visit to these grounds, and in fond remembrance of the benefit and the blessing he had learned and taught through the long time of fifty years, he himself was "sown a natural body," to be "raised a spiritual body." The analogies of growth, and ripening, and decadence, which had crowded on his thought and study for half a century, followed him in happy fruition to the spot, where, under his own hemlocks, and amid the first leaves of June, we laid him in the cemetery which his eloquence had consecrated a generation before with pathos and splendor. And so he went away from our presence.

"Of no distemper, of no blast he died,
But fell like Autumn fruit that mellowed long;
Even wondered at because he dropt no sooner.
Fate seemed to wind him up for fourscore years;
Yet freshly ran he on six winters more;
Till, like a clock worn out with eating time,
The wheels of weary life at last stood still."

ADDRESSES

MADE AT THE MEETING OF THE

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY,

JUNE 2, 1868.

At a special meeting of the American Antiquarian Society, at Antiquarian Hall, in Worcester, on Tuesday, the second day of June, 1868, at nine o'clock, A. M., to take notice of the death of Hon. Levi Lincoln, their senior Vice-President:

The President, Hon. Stephen Salisbury, occupied the chair, and addressed the Society as follows: —

Brethren of the American Antiquarian Society:

The last survivor of the Founders of our Society, whose life was full of wholesome instruction, has given to us his last lesson in the maturity and dignity of his death. At seven o'clock of the morning of May 29, 1868, Hon. Levi Lincoln, our senior Vice-President, died at his residence in Worcester, at the age of eighty-five years, seven months, and four days. He retained the enterprise and activity of early manhood with little abatement until about a year ago, when he had a slight shock of disease that impaired his bodily strength, and he at once acknowledged the warning that his earthly work must soon end. His strong wish was gratified in the continuance of his power to be wise and useful to the last. He endured the increasing decay of his bodily powers with patient resignation, and measured the descending steps with

calmness. In the last three weeks he expressed opinions on public affairs and private business which were marked with the clearness and strength of his best days. He has held important offices in our Society from the first, but he was never willing to take the office of President. In 1812, he was the Treasurer. From 1817 to 1854 he was an elected member of the Council, and from 1854 to his death he was one of the Vice-Presidents. At the meetings of the Society and of the Council, he constantly attended and gave most efficient aid in furthering scientific operations as well as ordinary business. He enriched our library with frequent, large, valuable, and appropriate gifts of books and manuscripts, and he was one of the largest donors of the Publishing Fund. There is no part of our publications that has raised the character and promoted the success of our Society to a greater degree, than the graceful and spirited addresses and resolutions which he has frequently offered.

His conduct toward our Society is accordant with the ordinary course of his life, and is the result of the peculiarity of his character and the source of his power, — his faithfulness. This attribute can be traced from his early youth, when he was a classmate of the Harvard graduates of 1802, a class not excelled in character, influence, and power, by the alumni of any year in any college of our country. Among such associates he was not distinguished for genius or learning at college, but he was not second to the most gifted of them in the power, usefulness, and honor of his mature life. He was not more remarkable for his capacity and his love for labor, than for the wise direction of his efforts and for his desire to obtain respect and dignity for the object with which he was entrusted. A stranger might impute to him a love of display, but those who saw him devote the same thoroughness in the privacy of a social meeting for a local improvement, as he used in a measure of national importance, will give him credit for higher motives. He was not a man of books or of systematic study, but he never

presented his thoughts in public without giving evidence that he had learning at his command. He was not so distinguished for genius or the prominence of any intellectual faculties, as for his perfect command of the operations of his own mind. His great facility of language and the fascination of his eloquence did not mislead him, and many will bear witness that he was able, when suddenly called to take part in an important debate, to carry on mental investigation while he was speaking, so that he made an impression, of which the beginning of his discourse gave no intimation. With his faithfulness a kindred virtue was associated — his moral courage — which was more extraordinary, as it was combined with great love of approbation. I think he would have assented to the apothegm of Pindar, that the next best thing to the performance of a good deed is the glory of it. Yet his biography will recount as we cannot at this time, how for the vindication of political principles and measures which he deemed important, for sustaining the criminal law, for giving the greatest strength to the Judiciary, and for other lesser exigencies of justice, truth, and the common weal, he disregarded the claims of friendship, the persuasions of those whom he most respected, and fierce threats of political disgrace and ruin. His faithfulness enabled him to maintain his pure character and the Christian observances which he approved, not only in the peacefulness of his home, but as well under the withering indifference and scorn of fashion. His social sympathy was ready and strong, and it prompted him to exercise the generosity and kindness which gave such grace and influence to his life and caused such general regret at his departure. It will be appropriate to others, who mourn for this loss, to speak of the number and the importance of his public services, of his agency in originating and maintaining good and wholesome laws, of his wise efforts to give extent as well as completeness to public education, of his active exertions to develop the industry and the resources of our country and the character of our people, to promote the spread

of Christian truth and Christian morality, and to secure rights of Christian worship, and provide for its support.

All these topics we must pass by. We have met for a short hour to consider him as a Father of our literary association, and in this view we dwell on his character, as a part of our treasures not less than his gifts, large, and frequent, and his personal exertions for our common object. But, the element of character so strongly predominates in his last public service, that its mention here would be permitted, if it were not required by justice and gratitude. I allude to the cordial and patriotic support which, in his retirement, he gave to the government of our country through the discouragements and perils of the last eight years, with a candid allowance for the difficulties of the time. Though this support was rendered with few public and unobtrusive statements of his opinions, it had the strongest influence to inspire confidence and patience in men of cautious and conservative sentiments, while it gave a safe direction to those who were more bold and adventurous.

The brief time that can be allowed for this meeting will not permit me to pursue these interesting topics. Official duty required me to present our object with more regard to the opportunity of others to address you, than to the completeness of that which I can offer. The hand of friendship has not the skill to draw the portrait of such a man. While I perform this solemn and honorable task, I must look toward our Society as steadily as I may, and forget for the moment that he whom I invite you to honor, is one of the small and decreasing number of relatives, who remain to me; one to whom I have looked for social happiness and wise counsels through my life, and from whom I have received expressions of affection and kind consideration, which I cannot impute to my own merit, as they were evidently a transmitted gift of my inheritance from my own respected father.

Hon. Emory Washburn spoke as follows : —

Mr. President :

This is no time, nor is there any occasion for eulogy, when preparing to pay our last tribute of respect to one whom we, and the people of this Commonwealth, have known so long, and so well. Eulogies by the living for the dead are indeed appropriate, where the sphere in which one has moved has been outside of the great centres and thoroughfares of active life, and there is danger, otherwise, of the world's losing the benefit of the lessons which are to be drawn from the example of a good man's life. But in the case of our late lamented associate, Gov. Lincoln, it needs no eulogy on our part to render his name more honored, or his fame more illustrious. He has just closed a long life of actual usefulness, during a large portion of which he has stood out before the people of the Commonwealth, and the country, in places of distinguished trust and honor. Few are spared to more than fourscore years of uninterrupted activity; and still fewer have ever shared in public life the unbroken confidence, for so many of those years, which his fellow citizens accorded to him with almost unexampled unanimity.

Scarcely any of us can go back in memory to the earlier stages of his distinguished career. And no one can remember the time when he did not, by his conduct and example, exhibit the same characteristic claims upon the respect of every good citizen which, in later life, won the esteem and confidence of such as had known him for the first time, when the temptations of ambition, if they had ever existed, had passed away, and the desire of popular favor had ceased to be an imputed motive to action. In briefer terms, his has been a life in which have been exemplified a consistency of motive and a singleness of purpose which have rarely been witnessed in the career of any one who has shared, as he did, such marked expressions of popular favor.

I should fear that I was trespassing upon the province of

others, in venturing to speak more at large, of the character of one so much honored in this community, if I did not recall that it is now almost fifty years since my relations to him began to be more or less intimate, and that, during that time, I have often been favored by expressions on his part, of a kindly regard, both in public and in private, by letter and in the unreserved intercourse of personal friendship; and if I did not feel, too, that I might assume to know something of the inner life and motives of one whose character I had so often studied, and of whose example I had so long been an interested observer.

While, therefore, I shall not attempt to allude, in anything like detail, to the leading events in a life which has been intimately associated with the history of the Commonwealth for more than half a century, I have little hesitation in saying, that I have never known one whose life and character had more of completeness in its composition than his. I arrogate perfection for no man. But for a uniform and harmonious consistency in its several parts, there are few lives with whose private history we are familiar, which have higher claims upon our admiration and respect than his whom we have met to honor. As we study it, whether as a whole or in detail, we find in every stage of it certain characteristics which are the guaranties of success, wherever they are united. Among these were a steadiness of purpose, a quickness in expedients, a judgment cool and well balanced, discriminating wisely in the selection of agents and the application of means, and, withal, a courage that shrunk from no responsibility, and an industry that was alike incessant and unwearied. And it was by these and similar elements of success that he achieved the rank which he sustained among the distinguished men of Massachusetts, with whom he had been cotemporary.

He was early called into the arena of politics, but though surrounded by the temptations which ambition holds out to its votaries in its honors and rewards, he did not suffer himself to be

withdrawn from the duties and labors of an honorable but arduous profession, to which he had been educated, with its less dazzling but more permanent rewards, until he had won for himself a foremost rank at the bar, and achieved a position of personal independence which raised him above suspicion of sordid or mercenary motives. And few triumphs have been more signal or gratifying, than that by which, after all the censure and sharp criticism which political controversies are sure to excite, the root of bitterness which had poisoned the harmony of neighborhoods and families, was laid aside, and he himself made the organ and representative, by common consent, of both parties, and the exponent of a broader and more liberal policy in the councils of the Commonwealth.

The political career of Governor Lincoln must, for obvious reasons, stand out more prominently than any other period in the history of his life. In the first place it covered the almost unprecedented term of more than thirty years. And as we recur to it at a time when scandal has been busy with the fame of so many in high places, we may feel a just sense of pride in his behalf who had passed through so long an ordeal, as we unroll the record of that thirty years, and find no blot or stain upon the fair page upon which it has been written. It is the record of one, who, to the character of the upright citizen and firm and patriotic magistrate, added the no less honorable claim to veneration and respect, of being, in all things, an honest man.

Next to the eminent distinction which he won in the various political offices which he was called to fill, was that which he achieved at the bar and upon the bench. It required talents and industry of a high order to attain to the rank which he held at this bar, then hardly second to any in the Commonwealth, against such competitors as Jabez Upham, Francis Blake, and John Davis, to say nothing of younger members of the profession, and the able and distinguished advocates from other counties who often

attended the courts here. To the affluent command of ready and appropriate language, the clearness of statement and the impressive eloquence which distinguished all his addresses, whether at the bar or before public assemblies, he added a thoroughness of preparation and an earnestness in the presentation of his causes which gained for him a large practice in his profession, as well as the reputation of a learned and able advocate which was second to none in the county, and to few, if any, in the Common wealth.

And when he was transferred from the bar to the bench of the Supreme Court, he gave, at once, an earnest of a like success in a new career, from which he was, however, very early withdrawn by an election to the Chief Magistracy. Nor can I properly omit to allude in this connection to that dignity and scrupulous courtesy of manner which mark the high bred gentleman, and which he always evinced as well in private life as in his public ministrations.

Of his public and enlightened zeal as a citizen in promoting whatever could advance the interests of the Commonwealth and his own county and town, he has left too many visible memorials to require me to speak of these in detail. To every such measure as offered a reasonable ground for confidence in its ultimate success, he lent a willing ear and a helping hand.

The military organizations of the Commonwealth always found in him an active and earnest supporter. He was an early and consistent advocate of those measures which had their origin during his administration, for developing and bringing into action the industrial resources and pursuits of the State. He was a practical promoter as well as an intelligent advocate of agriculture, as a business and liberal science, and, for many years, infused his own spirit into the community around him by his efficiency as President of the original Agricultural Society of Worcester County. And both the county and the Commonwealth are in danger

of losing the consciousness of what they owe to his zeal and generous public spirit, for the high condition of her industrial and economical interests.

This same desire to promote the prosperity of everything around him, was evinced in his efforts to advance the beauty, interests, and importance of his native town. His own house was always the centre of a generous and elegant hospitality, and with its surroundings was one of the most attractive objects in the then village in which it was situated. And the mansion in which he spent his years of dignified retirement was almost the pioneer, outside of the limits of that village, of those more stately and palatial residences which look out upon the busy streets and widening expanse of the city into which it has been changed by the magic power of industry and intelligent labor.

One characteristic of the public life of Governor Lincoln which was, perhaps, more marked than any other, was the uniform thoroughness, assiduity, and completeness, with which he performed every duty required of him by the place he was called to fill. He neglected no service because it wanted the prestige of dignity. He omitted no office of courtesy or propriety because it was unknown, and might pass unnoticed by others. He dignified every place he occupied, and so conducted himself in it, that it dignified him in return. And however high might be its requirements, he was able to bring to it at all times, powers and capacities adequate to all its reasonable demands.

I have scarcely, as yet, spoken of Governor Lincoln in his relations in private life. I can hardly hope to do it justice in such a presence, and before the echoes have died away of that cheerful and cordial greeting with which he always met and welcomed his friends and neighbors. And while I need not dwell upon these to you who have known him, to such as did not know him, I could at best indulge only in general terms when attempting to speak of him in his home, in the social intercourse

with friends, and in the amenities of manner, which always marked him as the gentleman of the old school. And yet I ought to say a single word of his character as a man of thrift and business, in this age of universal haste to be rich. In all his varied transactions as a professional man and a citizen, which were often widely extended, no imputation of unfairness in his dealings, no disposition to take advantage of the necessities of others, or to withhold a generous forbearance, and no reluctance to do exact justice, ever rested upon his name. His word was as trustworthy as his bond, nor did he ever meet with a deserving object of charity in his walks, whom he passed by on the other side.

Had proof been wanting of his ardent love of country, in the long life which he had been so ready to devote to her cause, it would have been more than supplied by the singleness of purpose and ardor of zeal with which he lent his personal effort, as well as influence, to maintain the integrity of the Union when the life of the nation was in danger. The call of the country upon her sons in that fearful struggle, found no livelier, or more unselfish response, than in the sacrifices and stirring appeals of this eloquent old man of fourscore.

And the part which he took in casting the vote of Massachusetts in the last Presidential election, for him who, under Providence, had led us as a people through that fiery trial, was a fitting act to crown a public life of so much usefulness and honor.

I would gladly, if my time permitted, allude also to the connection which our friend had so long maintained with the cause of education and the institutions of learning in the Commonwealth. His relation to Harvard College from the time of his graduation in 1802, was always that of a patron and efficient friend. He was many years a trustee of Leicester Academy; and of the various charitable and religious associations, as of the church and society in which he worshipped, with which he was connected,

he was ever a steady and consistent supporter. Of what he has done for the American Antiquarian Society, to whose interests he has evinced an active devotion from its first organization, I hardly need remind its members, as they recall the many claims upon their respect which the contemplation of his life cannot fail to awaken. The only fitting way in which they can signify their sense of the loss which their association has sustained in his death, is by turning aside, for a little while, from the busy walks of active duty, and joining with those who will gather around his open grave to-day, to pay their last tribute of respect to his memory. Many can join with me in adding the personal offering of grateful emotions, when recalling the unselfish consideration with which he attached himself to his friends. There was a sincerity in his friendship which was above the influence of sunshine or success, and was not measured in its warmth or expression by how it was to tell upon his own personal advancement. And there will be a wide circle outside of that more central point of his household and his home, who will mourn him as a loved and cherished friend. Nor can I add anything more on this occasion than to remind you that the eloquent advocate, the excellent citizen, the wise counsellor, the consummate magistrate, the high-toned gentleman, and the genial and faithful companion and friend has passed away, in the ripe vigor of his manhood, in the full possession of his powers, and the undimmed lustre of his fame. Nothing remains for us but to draw lessons for ourselves and others from the example he has left us, and to express by our presence at the obsequies paid to the honored dead, the love and veneration we bore for him while living.

Hon. Benjamin F. Thomas spoke substantially as follows:

Mr. President:

I had expected that a professional engagement would have prevented my being with you to-day, — otherwise I would not

have come without some preparation. As it is I must trust to the suggestion and word of the moment.

As I came home this morning, for this is the spot of earth that wears to me the nearest aspect of home, something seemed to be wanting. The place was here in the freshness and beauty and glory of the spring-time, — these rounded hills crowned with the homes of taste and culture, this valley teeming with life, which nature and art have united to make so beautiful, — but something was wanting. Without the spiritual, the material is ever wanting. *Men* make the city, as they "make the state." I felt that the erect and manly form with which time had dealt so gently, softening as with the hues of twilight, those winning and courtly manners, that venerable and kindly presence, that stately, graceful, and eloquent speech, which have lent such charm and dignity to the proceedings of our Society, we should see and hear no more. The link which bound this generation to the last, the thronged and busy city to the quiet rural village, was to be laid in his grave.

Gov. Lincoln came from a vigorous stock. Among my earliest recollections of Worcester is the seeing (in 1820, I think,) the funeral procession of Governor Lincoln's father winding its way from Lincoln Street to the then new burying ground. That was an event in our village history, for he was the most eminent of her citizens, the intimate friend of Jefferson and Madison, Lieutenant-Governor and acting Governor of the State, Attorney-General of the United States, and by appointment Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States. From that day to this, the history of his eldest son has been part, and a most honorable part of the history of Massachusetts. By the time he reached mature manhood he had been a Representative of the town, Senator of the County, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Lieutenant Governor, Judge of the Supreme Court, and Governor of the Commonwealth. The duties of each and every place he had discharged with signal ability and fidelity. He had large instinctive

capacity for the public service. It belonged to the family. Some of us may recollect seeing standing by the mother's grave, Levi, Governor of Massachusetts; Enoch, the accomplished Governor of Maine; John, then Senator of the State, and in clear, vigorous understanding, firmness of purpose and executive force, perhaps *primus inter pares;* and William, the accomplished scholar and antiquarian, historian of Worcester, then representing the town with distinction in the General Court.

I cannot enter with any detail upon the public life and services of Gov. Lincoln. Their history will doubtless be written by competent hands. I can but glance at one or two points. As Governor he did great service to the Commonwealth by the sagacity and foresight with which he devoted himself to her means of internal communication. Our admirable system of railroads owes much to his unremitting zeal and energy, when men, who thought themselves wise and prudent, held back or sneered.

If any one act of his public life were to be selected as deserving especial notice and gratitude, it would be that in which, at the sacrifice of personal friendship and attachment, he gave to the Commonwealth, the most eminent and useful of her judicial magistrates, in the appointment of Lemuel Shaw as Chief Justice.

The *quality* which distinguished his administration of public office, was the thoroughness and fidelity with which he discharged every duty, great or small. He magnified his office. He jealously upheld its dignity and consideration, and none of its duties were looked at as small. It was enough for him that there was work to be done, and if to be done, it must be well and faithfully done.

Gov. Lincoln was a man of firmness and courage. He loved and desired to win and retain popular favor. But, he loved it wisely and not too well. He did not believe in this new gospel, which substitutes popular opinion for the divine will, or the mature convictions of one's own judgment, — a doctrine which so shrivels and dwarfs the culture, the understanding, the faith, and the man-

hood of so many of the public men of to-day. He would do his duty though it cost him the averted looks of friends, or stirred popular wrath and indignation. He knew "the wind bloweth where it listeth."

I ought perhaps to stop here. The judgment says, yes, but the heart says, no. I must draw a little nearer.

Some forty-two years ago, I went with Gov. Lincoln and his military family through the country to Taunton to attend a review. I was greatly delighted by the dignity and courtesy of his manners, and by his kindness and attention to myself, a boy of thirteen. From that time to this, I have received from him nothing but kindness and consideration; and there have been times when, in my humble sphere, I seemed to be treading the wine-press alone, when the assurance of his approbation, confidence, and sympathy, has been to me a benediction. Standing by his open grave, I could not, Mr. President, omit this expression of love and gratitude.

These occasions, Mr. President, belong rather to the living than to the dead. *He* may not hear these voices of eulogy and of grateful remembrance. If, looking upon a long life so well spent, varied service so well done, varied honors so worthily won and worn, *we* catch no inspiration from his example, no invigoration in the way of duty, it were better that our lips were silent as his own, and that the dead should be left to bury their dead.

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